

# **Kuching 1950-1959** **Sir Anthony Foster** **Abell's Era**

— Compiled By HO AH CHON —

**1**



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*Dengan*  
*Ingatan Julus Ikhlas*  
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# **KUCHING 1950-1959**

## **SIR ANTHONY ABELL'S ERA**

### **Preface**

Mr. Ho Ah Chon had produced three books before publishing the present one. His three previous books, "Kuching in Pictures 1840-1960", "Sarawak in Pictures 1940-1970" and "Sarawak Historical Events 1963-1973" were pictorial books containing photographs most of which were taken by Mr. Ho over a period of years. These books are useful records of the appearance of Kuching and Sarawak which give people some idea of what the State was like in those days gone by.

In this book Mr. Ho has compiled photographs taken during the period of administration of Sir Anthony Abell, who was Governor of Sarawak from 1950-1959. This book is however different from the others in that beside photographs Mr. Ho Ah Chon has also included articles, descriptions and statements made by Sir Anthony Abell on various occasions taken from newspapers and other sources. These materials are useful for those interested in Sarawak history in so far as they reflect the policies of the colonial administration.

Sir Anthony Abell took over the administration after the tragic death of the second Governor of Sarawak, Sir Duncan Stewart, who was assassinated in Sibu barely a month after his arrival in Sarawak, succeeding Sir Charles Arden Clarke the First Governor, who left to become Governor of Ghana. The cession by Sir Charles Vyner Brooke in 1946 of Sarawak to the British to become a crown colony was opposed by a majority of the Malay community leaders and also many Malays in the Civil service. A hard line taken by the first colonial governor caused a lot of hardship as many had to leave government service when given the option of pledging their loyalty to the Government or resign from the service. A group of young Malays in Sibu plotted to assassinate the Governor. It was tragic that someone new and not responsible for their suffering should die. It was therefore Sir Anthony Abell's formidable task to deal with this critical situation. However due largely to his friendliness more conciliatory approach and personal touch he was able to calm the people and gradually overcome the opposition to the colonial regime and stabilise the situation in the country.

Sir Anthony Abell's tenure of office from 1950-1959 was an unusually long one for a British Colonial Governor. He travelled extensively and got to know the people well and gained their confidence and even the friendship of many. The book portrays the progress made over the nine years of his administration. Improvement in communication, which had always been an obstacle to socio-economic development was amply illustrated by the many photographs of air and sea transportation. Political advancement was evident from the constitutional changes made providing for election to local council and indirect elections through the five divisional councils to the legislature (Council Negeri) and executive (Supreme) Councils. Although Sir Anthony Abell expressed his personal reservation on the wisdom of introduction of party politics when he addressed the 4th Division Advisory Council in Miri in May 1959, he approved the application for registration of the Sarawak United People's Party in June 1959. He did not allow his personal conviction to frustrate the political aspiration of the people. On the contrary he was thinking of the future of the territory under his charge (at that time Sarawak and Brunei of which he was British High Commissioner) and advocating an association of the Borneo territories of Sarawak, Brunei, and British North Borneo (Sabah). That his proposal did not materialise was due to Brunei's reluctance to share her wealth with her poorer neighbours and the vested British commercial interests in Sabah, which are suspicious and afraid of political developments in Sarawak. The proposal for a Borneo Federation was after Sir Anthony's



retirement overshadowed by Tunku Abdul Rahman's proposal for the Federation of Malaysia.

Apart from the many photographs of events and places in Sarawak, the book contains information of great interest historically. In this respect, I would like to refer to two articles (on page 85-89) on Mr. J.C.H. Bacsoft, who is known to very few people today, and yet his death was a great loss to Sarawak. John Bacsoft was one of the few officers of the Rajah Brooke regime who rose after many years' service in the outstation to become Financial Secretary and eventually Chief Secretary in May 1958. He knew the people of Sarawak well and was a friendly, generous man, ready to accept criticism and advice. His appointment as Chief Secretary held for us, members in the Supreme Council promises of further constitutional progress. He was keen to give further participation by the people in the administration of the State by the introduction of a membership system in the Supreme or Executive Council, whereby a member would be allotted to portfolio in the Executive Council. His death, so soon after taking office before the scheme could be pursued further was a set back because the matter was never raised again due to changes in the top ranks of the colonial administration. I am glad that Mr. Ho Ah Chon has included the article on John Bacsoft in this book. There is a small scholarship Fund raised by public donations named after him to provide financial assistance for short courses not available from other sources or agencies. This is a tribute to John Bacsoft's service to Sarawak.

I commend this book to all those interested in the history of the socio-economic and political development of Sarawak.



**TAN SRI DATUK ONG KEE HUI**

# Acknowledgement

*The compilation of my Fourth Pictorial Book is purely for historical interest and record purposes during the Third Governor of Sarawak, Sir Foster Anthony Abells as from 1950-1959.*

*The illustrations and descriptions of the various events had been reported through the Sarawak Gazettes, Sarawak Annual Report by the Sarawak Government. Sarawak By The Week issued by the Sarawak Information Service and the Sarawak Tribune issued by the Sarawak Press Sdn. Bhd.*

*I wish to put on record my grateful and heartfelt thanks to Tan Sri Ong Kee Hui for his Preface and the Sarawak Museum Archives for their kind assistance in the publication of this Pictorial Book.*



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# CONTENTS

1. — Kuching The Capital of Sarawak
2. — History
5. — Communications
7. — Kuching Port Scheme Gets Underway: \$3,300,000 Wharf Contract Awarded 1958
10. — A New Shipping Service Begins — Vessel Steams Up Sarawak River In Dark In 1958
11. — Phosphates Unloaded At Kuching — Captain Bruce Drops In To Visit Old Friends (November 13, 1958)
12. — 'Benveg' In Kuching (September 13, 1958)
13. — Air
14. — Communcations — Air
16. — The Opening Of The 7th Mile Kuching Airport By His Excellency The Governor Of Sarawak Sir Anthony Abell In 1950
20. — Great Air Display Watched By Mammoth Crowd 1954
22. — Sibü's New Airstrip Is Now Ready — Regular Service Begins July 1 (28th June, 1952)
23. — Bintulu Airstrip
25. — Lutong Airstrip
26. — Simanggang Airfield Ready Soon (18th December, 1956)
27. — Internal Air Services For Borneo's Demonstration Next Month (19th January, 1957)
28. — Sequel To Twin Pioneer Demonstration — Service Before Year-End Possible (2nd March, 1957)  
— Malayan Airways' 10-Year Anniversary
30. — New Agreement On Malayan Airways (13th August, 1957)  
— Operation 3 Months' Time — Twin Pioneers For Internal Feeder Service (7th June, 1957)
31. — Sixteen Airfields Ready By 1960 — Communications Problem Nears Solution (5th October, 1957)
32. — Expansion Of Malayan Airline (January 9, 1958)
33. — Borneo Airways — Better Prospects For Internal Air Services (March 4, 1958)
34. — Twin Pioneers Arriving — New Routes In Feeder Service To Begin Soon (March 24, 1958)
35. — Twin Pioneers Have Come — First Landing At Kuching — Smooth Flight All The Way (April 30, 1958)
36. — Twin Pioneer Surprise — Feeder Service Begins Now (May 14, 1958)
37. — Sarawak Thrilled — Talk Of The Country Today (May 15, 1958)

40. — Successful Proving Flights In July 1958 — Long Akah And Bario Airstrips Take Twin. No Immediate Plan To Begin Regular Service 11/7/58)  
— Airstrip At Lawas (May 5, 1958)
41. — It's Borneo's Own — Into The International Field
42. — Sematan Airfield Opens (15 September, 1958)  
— Proving Flights Made To Lawas And Simanggang Airfields
43. — Scheduled Flight To Lawas Begins
44. — Viscount On Proving Flight — Supplement Services Begin Next Month (November 24, 1959)  
— CPA DC-6 On Regular Service (December 16, 1959)  
— C.P.A.'s D.C. 6 At Kuching Airport
45. — Viscount's Proving Flight — Service Begins December 14, 1959 (November 26, 1959)
46. — The First Two Years (Monday, March 31st, 1952)
47. — Awang, George Cross
48. — Ceremony Begins At Nine Today, Tuesday, 22nd January, 1952 — Governor Will Pin Medal On Awang — Man Of The Day
49. — Sarawak Remembers
52. — King George Passes Away Peacefully — Death Of King George The Sixth
56. — Sustained By Sincerity Of His Faith: Bishop — Memorial Service At Cathedral February 1952 (Kuching, Saturday, 16th February, 1952)
57. — Queen Mary (March 26, 1953)
60. — Queen Mary Dies In Sleep On 25th March 1953.  
— Coronation Will Go On As Planned (Kuching, Thursday, 26th March 1953)
61. — Message Of Condolence
62. — One Hundred Years Of Progress 1854—1953. Kwong Wai Siew Association Celebrates Centenary
65. — Centenary Anniversary. Lion Dance Then Crackers Follow
66. — Official Celebration Of The Birthday Of Queen Elizabeth II In 1952 — O.A.G. Takes The Salute At The March Post
69. — Pelawat Deraja Dan Sambutan Penduduk Kampong
72. — Decoration In The Malay Kampongs Kuching
73. — You Have Put Up A Great Show: I Am Proud Of You: Governor Says — Malay Community Receive Prizes
75. — The Tour Of The Arches
77. — Teach Your Children The Pride And Love Of Your Town. See That You Stick To This High Standard: Governor
79. — The Queen's Birthday Parade, 1953
82. — The Centenary Festival — The Procession Of Solemn Witness
83. — A Morning Of Traditional Pomp And Splendour — Governor Takes Salute At Queen's Birthday Parade (June 14, 1958)



84. — Queen's Birthday Parade
85. — Barcroft's Funeral Today — Death In Course Of Duty — Body Flown Over From Lawas
87. — Sarawak Pays Last Respects To Barcroft (Monday June 9, 1958)
89. — Election Day Message
91. — Governor's Address At The First Ordinary Meeting Of The Newly-Elected Kuching Municipal Council
94. — Governor Stresses Importance Of Peace And Unity
95. — 'Govt. To Strengthen Economy, Tighten Security' Says Governor
97. — Governor Tells The People Of Plan To Bring Borneo Territories Into Closer Partnership 1958
100. — Strong Warning Against Racial Separatism — Governor's Hari Raya Message 1958 — Call For Future That Must Be Shared By All
101. — Unity Plan: 'Don't Be Suspicious To Others', — Sir Anthony Tells Malays
103. — Maintain Family Discipline — Governor Urges Chinese 1958
105. — Sir Anthony Speaks Up For The Native People Of Sarawak 1958
107. — 'Give Helping Hand To Weak And Backward' — Governor Urges Chinese. 'No Harmony In Sarawak If There Is Wide Disparity Of Wealth And Learning' — In 1959
109. — Hari Raya Puasa Message. O.A.G Stresses The Importance Of Racial Harmony
110. — Political Parties In Sarawak — The Governor's Speech In Miri (From May 24 to May 30)
112. — The Borneo Co. Ltd.
116. — New Premises Opened — Climax To Celebration
117. — Mammoth Centenary Dinner — Proud History And Tradition (18th October, 1956)
119. — Centenary Celebrations In Sibul (19th October, 1956)
122. — Chung Shin Union Association Inauguration Chairman Appeals For Advice, Goodwill And Co-operation, 1952
123. — The Coffee Shop Trade And The Public, 1952
124. — The Public Service Corps
127. — The First Official Launching Of Two Chinese Dragon Boats 1952
128. — The Second Official Launching Of Two New Dragon Boats 1953
130. — Harmonious Team Work
131. — Thousands Attend The Regatta
135. — Greatest Of Crowds At Regatta 1953
137. — St Thomas's School Sports 1952.  
— Noel House Carries Championship Cup
141. — Four Records Broken In Thomians Sports



142. — Lee Yun Siew Best Athlete — Finest Records Set In St Joseph's School Sport  
1954
146. — Judging Today At Sarawak Union  
— Pan Borneo Photographic Exhibition
147. — Kuching Photographer Gets Gold Medal  
— First Pan Borneo Photographic Competition
151. — Photographic Exhibition Governor To Open Show
152. — Governor Open First British Borneo Territories Photographic Exhibition
154. — Wong Describes Exhibition As Incentive
155. — Photographic Exhibition



## KUCHING THE CAPITAL OF SARAWAK

Kuching is situated on the Sarawak River, eighteen miles from the sea and can be reached by ships up to 2,500 tons. Besides being the seat of the government of Sarawak, Kuching is the administrative headquarters for the First Division. The town is growing rapidly and the population is estimated at about 300,000 of whom the trading community is mainly Chinese, with large Malay and other smaller communities occupying sub-urban areas. The main part of the town with its wharves and warehouses, schools and places of worship of the various communities, government offices, museum and other public buildings, and the main residential areas, is on the south side of Sarawak River.

Access to the north side is mainly passenger ferry but vehicles may reach the northern residential areas across the river by the suspension bridge and a minor road. On the north bank of the river directly opposite the centre of the town are situated the governors residence the Astana, formerly the palace of the Rajahs of Sarawak, and the Fort Margherita, another link with the old Sarawak. Behind these buildings are residential areas and Kampongs. The business part of town and the inner suburbs are administered by a fully-elected Municipal Council. Control of the outer suburbs and residential areas is in the hand of the Rural District Council.





*Kuching, the capital, from the air.*

G.W. VERR

## History

Owing to the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, we can do little more than conjecture as to the early history of the country now called Sarawak. Hindu figures and gold ornaments have been found, predominantly in the Sarawak River basin, but their date and provenance have not yet been satisfactorily established. The Land Dayaks of the First Division, by their abstention from the flesh of cattle and by the name of their god Jewata (Hindu *deva*), show that at one time they were brought into intimate contact with the Hindus.

*A priori* reasoning, coupled with the discovery of undoubtedly early Hindu remains in other parts of Borneo, suggests that Sarawak was visited, and probably settled in, by the Indian colonists, who from the early years of the Christian era went forth from their homeland to trade and settle in the countries to the south-east.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo

Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present-day total world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa labadiou*, and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that a considerable number



*Kuching town as seen from Thompson Road in 1952*

of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Moslem states established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as the present capital, Kuching.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the

territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however, is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built upon the foundations laid by his uncle with such conspicuous success that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.





*Main Bazaar as seen in 1950.*

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River, in 1885, when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded, and in 1890, when the Limbang River was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from 126,161 and \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitu-

tion, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of the people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased to exist; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary reformed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.





*A sampan, and one of the ships which now maintains a regular service between Kuching and Hong Kong.*

GSIS

## Communications

The weekly service between Kuching and Singapore and between Rejang River and Singapore was maintained with fair punctuality by the Sarawak Steamship Company Limited. The weekly service between Miri and Singapore was run by Straits Steamship Company vessels.

The monthly service between Kuching, Pending and North Borneo, calling at Miri, was maintained by the Straits Steamship Company vessel S.S. "Marudu". This service is not entirely satisfactory, there being considerable need to increase the number of calls per month at Pending. On occasion both passengers and freight have not been accepted by the vessel at Pending, although they had been accepted by the steamer's agents at Kuching.

MV's *Hua Li* and *Hua Heng* of the Hua Siang Steamship Company called frequently mainly with packed oil products for Biawak Wharf.

The China Siam Line added a third ship MV *Hermelin*, in October, giving a three

monthly service to and from Hong Kong, and in October also there began a regular monthly service from Australia by ships of the Royal Interocean Line, MV *Silindoeng*, *Sibigo*, *Sigli* and *Sinabang*. Other vessels called at Kuching, mainly from Bangkok with rice, maize, salt and pickled vegetables, about twice a month. Bulk oil ships called less frequently as a larger type of tanker up to 360' long is now acceptable at Biawak Wharf. In May the first ship arrived at the anchorage off Sematan for the export of bauxite from the Sematan Bauxite Company's mine.

### ***Sibu, Binatang and Sarikei (Rejang River)***

A regular service to the Rejang River Ports from Singapore was provided by vessels of the Sarawak Steamship Company and the Hua Siang Steamship Company, up to eight vessels a month. Two of the China Siam Line ships also served Sibu. The third vessel called at Tanjong Mani only. The Royal Interocean Lines Australian services vessels called at



*Tanjung Po' light house, First Division.* SARAWAK MUSEUM

Sibu once a month. Smaller bulk oil tankers served the installation at Sungei Merah, Sibu. Other tonnage with rice from Bangkok also called up to three times a month. A considerable number of them are tied ships i.e. sago carriers. In the main these vessels are not built or maintained to a high standard, and in consequence are beginning to suffer restrictions in passengers and cargo carrying capacity through not being up to the required survey standards. Unless some improvement in new construction and replacement of craft takes place at a fairly early date those restrictions may have serious effects. Efficiency of craft and machinery must be maintained and safety of passengers, crew and cargo assured, so there can be no question of relaxing survey standards. On the contrary, the standards required with regard to construction, strength, reliability of machinery, life saving and fire-fighting equipment, accommodation for crews and passengers will be increased.

River transport is maintained entirely by Chinese launches. The service is in the main satisfactory, but as both cargo and passengers are carried at the same time, trips of more than a few hours cannot be comfortable.

Government supply vessels have been fully employed. The "Lucille" made an approximate monthly run between Kuching and the Fifth Division via coastal ports. This vessel has suffered severe criticism with regard to the regularity of its schedule. Because of the variety of calls for her services it is virtually

impossible to fix any time table. A few of the extra trips are as follows:

Special trips with six months supply of benzine for Bintulu District, to Lundu to relieve congestion of goods after bazaar had burnt down, to Simanggang to bring Ferret Force recruits and labour to Kuching, to bring urgently required rice to Brunei, and timber from Bintulu and Tatau to Sibu and Kuching.

## Tanjong Mani

This anchorage, about 16 miles upriver from the Rejang mouth, received a total of 772,010 tons of ocean shipping mostly for sawn and round timber. A little import cargo was brought for discharge into lighter, — mainly flour and creosote in drums, from Australia. The pioneering Blue Funnel and Ben Lines were supplemented by other well known British companies including the P. & O., and there are regular services to Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, European and Australian Ports by vessels of various flags.

Ocean carriers calling at Tanjong Mani was more than in 1949, at least 30 vessels calling in 1950. The Bums Philip vessels Brae-side and Bumside which gave connection with Australia ceased calling at the end of the year. However, other shipping concerns have been making inquiries and it is hoped that direct sea connection between Sarawak and many distant countries may develop.

# KUCHING PORT SCHEME GETS UNDERWAY: \$3,300,000 WHARF CONTRACT AWARDED

In March 1958, the Sarawak Government has awarded a \$3,300,000 - contract to Gammon (Malaya) Limited to build a two-berth 600-foot long wharf at Tanah Puteh under the Kuching port development scheme. Tanah Puteh lies about two miles east of the town, near the mouth of the Sungei Priok.

The new wharf will be constructed of reinforced concrete supported on piles driven into the bed of the Sarawak River.

Work is expected to begin soon and to be completed within 18 months. The contracting firm will send staff and equipment to Kuching to carry out the project but local labour will also be engaged.

The construction of the Tanah Puteh wharf forms part of the first stage of development of the new port area recommended last year by a firm of British consultant engineers. The port area under the scheme consists essentially of the new wharf which is bounded by a Customs area with transit sheds and port operating facilities.

## Big Capital Expenditure

The first stage covers the basic essentials to start operating the port and includes earthworks, the construction of a main transit shed, roads in the port area, dock offices, the supply of water and electricity and provision of port equipment. It is estimated that the total capital expenditure on the first stage will be between \$5 million and \$6 million.

The second stage covers additional facilities, which though not immediately essential, will expand and improve the facilities of the port.

The last stage is a long-term one and makes provision for the future development of the port.

The development area under the scheme envisages a port area, and commercial, residential and industrial zones.

Commenting on the scheme, the Director of Marine, Captain J.R. Blease, said that his Department had just engaged the services of a Hydrographic Surveyor, one of whose tasks would be to make a survey of the Sarawak River from Pending to Kuching to help define the length and draft of ship able to come up to the new port area.

He considered that vessels of 300 feet in length and 16 to 17 feet in draft should be able to use the new port but it was hoped to increase this, possibly by 20 feet in length and another six inches in draft, subject to the survey proving satisfactory together with the blasting of rocks at Bintawak bend.

The Hydrographic Surveyor is Captain C.C. Lowry, who recently retired from the Hydrographic Branch of the Royal Navy and who has had considerable surveying experience in various parts of the world.

His duties this year in Sarawak include a survey of the bar and river mouth of Sematan (First Division) together with a check on the ocean ship anchorage off this port for the loading of bauxite; sweeping for wrecks off Tanjong Sipang and Pulau Satang; and a survey of the bar at Kuala Rajang. The Pending-to-Kuching survey will be made when weather prevents coastal work.







*Straits Steamship passenger/cargo vessel "Rajah Brooke" entering Kuching on her regular schedule from Singapore.*



*M.V. Bidor owned by the Sarawak Steamship Company.*

The rivers and the sea are the principal means of communication, there were few roads and only two airports in the country in the year 1952.

Regular sailings were maintained

throughout the year between Kuching and Singapore by vessels of the Sarawak Steamship Company, Straits Steamship Company vessels continued to call at Pending to and fro North Borneo.



*M.S. Hervar*



*M.S. Hermod owned by the Norwegian Asia Line in the Sarawak River.*

Regular sailing were maintained. Bangkok and Rangoon were brought into Sarawak ports by these companies. Ship bearing the flag of Panama have started calling at Kuching and Sibu bringing in cement, sugar and granite and some general cargoes from Hong Kong.

The Norwegian Asia Line owned M.S. Hendrik, Hervar, Harmod, Helios made regular runs between Kuching and Hong Kong. Apart from bringing in general cargoes, it accepted first and second passengers.

# A New Shipping Service Begins

## Vessel steams up Sarawak river in dark in 1958



*M.V. Silindoeng of Royal Inter-ocean Lines, the first ship on the direct route between Australia and Sarawak berthed at Kuching Ban Hock Wharf.*

In 1958 a direct shipping service between Eastern Australian Ports and Sarawak began this week with the arrival here last Tuesday evening of the M.V. Silindoeng.

This vessel, one of four ships of the same class, each with a gross tonnage of 2,250, and equipped to carry frozen cargo and passenger accommodation for 12 in four cabins, is under the command of Captain H. Meyer.

She has a crew of 10 officers and 35 men. The Chief Officer is Mr. Van Dam.

When the vessel arrived at Pending on Tuesday evening it was nearly dark, but in order to facilitate the discharge of cargoes as early as possible, the Director of Marine, Captain J.R. Blease piloted her into Kuching.

There were some anxious moments during the last half hour of the trip in because it was by then very dark. But the skilful manoeuvring of Captain Blease resulted in smooth berthing operations at the Ban Hock Wharf.

To enable this vessel to berth at the Ban Hock Wharf, the S.S. Darvel had to move up late in the evening to the Biawak Wharf to continue her discharge of rice from Bangkok.

This was made possible through the co-operation of the Sarawak Steamship Co., Ltd, as agents for the Straits Steamship Co., Ltd., and this cooperative and helpful gesture very much impressed the master of the Silindoeng, Captain Meyer.

The Silindoeng brought in with her from Australia and Bangkok a total cargo of 400 tons for Kuching. She is leaving Kuching this afternoon with a load of 140 tons of timber, for Sibu where she will discharge more cargo.

After a day's stay there the vessel will leave for Tanjong Mani to collect more timber.

Mr. R.T.R. Fetcher, of Messrs. Sime, Darby (Borneo) Ltd., local agents for Royal Inter-ocean Line, told the Tribune yesterday that for a new service on its first trip the cargo which the ship carried could be considered most satisfactory.

One of the ship's passengers on the way back to Australia will be Mr. Norman Lucas, retiring Acting Deputy Commissioner of Trade and Customs, Sarawak, who with his family will join the ship in Singapore when she calls there next week.

A reception was held on board the vessel last night to inaugurate the service.

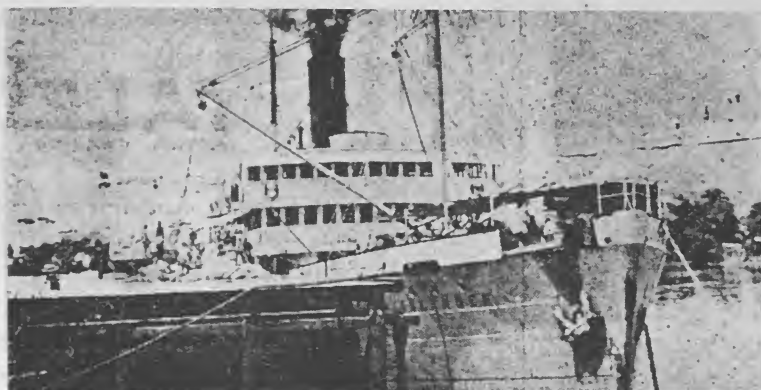


# Phosphates Unloaded at Kuching

## Captain Bruce Drops In To Visit Old Friends

Six hundred tons of phosphates were this week discharged at Kuching from the T.S.S. *Islander*, a ship belonging to the British Phosphates Commissioners of which the local agents are Messrs. Boustead & Co., Ltd.

The arrival of the *Islander* has added to the peak traffic— the highest ever in history - at the Ban Hock Wharf, and after a three-day stay, she left for Singapore last Tuesday afternoon.



*The Iskandar as seen by Tribune photographer along the Ban Hock Wharf, discharging her cargo of phosphates in November 1958.*

The man who is in command of the *Islander* is a remarkable sailor whose long career at sea has made him a well-known figure particularly along the Bornean coasts.



He is Captain P.B. Bruce (inset) who has been sailing out of Singapore for over thirty years with the Straits Steamship Company and from which he retired as Commodore, his last command being the S.M.V. *Kimanis*.

Captain Bruce started his sea career as an apprentice, and when 31 years later he retired in 1956 he took up his present appointment on the *Islander*.

During the war he served on the S.S. *Kajang* which is reputed to be the oldest vessel in the Straits Steamship fleet. Later he commanded the *Empire Palace* which was on the South Africa run, and this ship was the

first merchant ship to go alongside the Steamship Wharf after the Japanese occupation. On board that vessel then was Mr. J.C.B. Fisher, now Resident, Fourth Division and an old friend of Captain Bruce. Another old friend of his is Captain Pobjoy, the master of the '*Rajah Brooke*'.

The *Islander* herself has also a romantic history.

Built at Grangemouth in Scotland in 1929, her usual run in Malaya/Christmas Island, carrying stores from Singapore to Christmas Island and in return loading phosphates from the Island for Singapore.

Once every six months the ship is chartered by Cable and Wireless Limited and the Clunies-Ross Estates to take stores to the Cocos Island — returning to Singapore with copra.

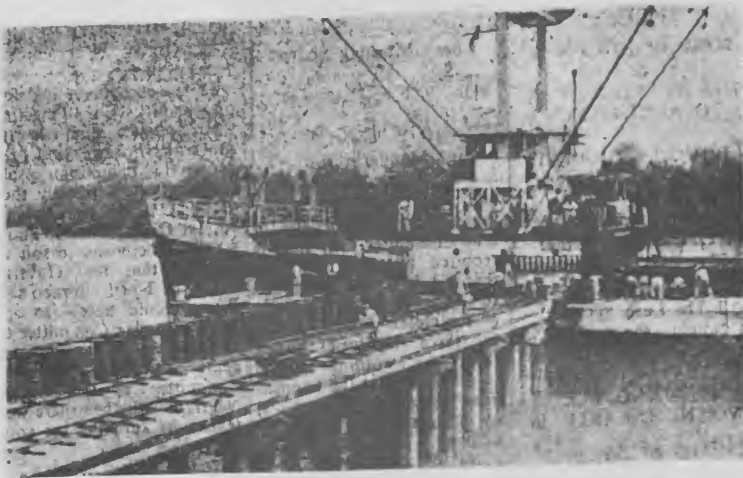
The vessel is also fitted for the laying of deep sea moorings.

This week's visit to Kuching gave Captain Bruce an opportunity to renew acquaintances with his many friends here.

He will be due for leave in Scotland very shortly, and he expresses regret at having to leave his great number of Bornean friends here to whom he wishes to be remembered.

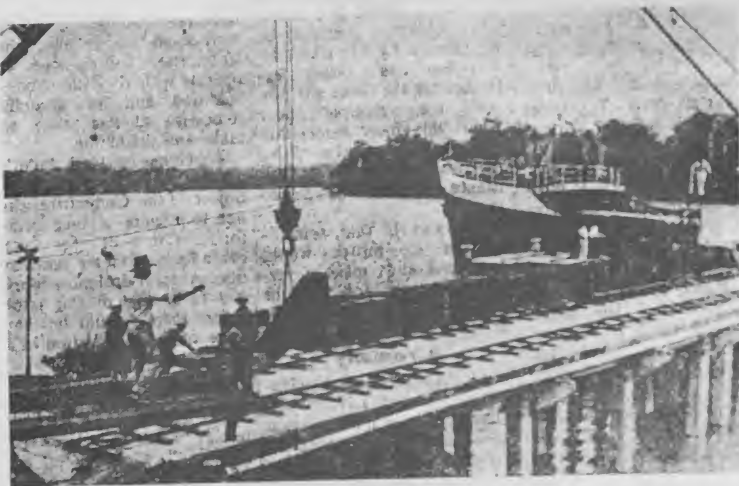
# 'BENVEG' IN KUCHING

THE SARAWAK TRIBUNE September 13 1958



and being lifted on to a lorry by a mobile crane.

Discharge 30' long pieces presents a number of difficulties which do not normally arise and the operation has only been made possible by careful planning and the co-operation of Public Works Department, Customs and Marine Departments.



A light railway line has been laid along Bukit Biawak Wharf and after the piles have been lowered on to bogie trucks, they have to be pushed along the wharf where they are either loaded on to a special lorry or to stacking piles by the mobile crane.

The 'Benveg' is also carrying some general cargo for Kuching importers and after discharge of the piles the ship will proceed to Ban Hock Wharf to discharge, and where it should be today.

Further progress in the construction of the new wharf and port at Sungei Priok has been made with the arrival last Thursday in Kuching of the M.V. Benveg.

This vessel owned by Ben Line Steamers Ltd., and usually operating between Singapore and Bangkok

berthed at Bukit Biawak wharf soon after arrival.

It carried 625 pieces of sheet steel piles, each piece being 30' long and weighing half a ton, to be used in the construction of the new Sungei Priok wharf. Pictures above show the piles being discharged from the vessel

The vessel is under the command of Captain R.D. Robb and the Agents are Messrs. Harper, Gilfillan & Co., Ltd.



## Air

Before the Japanese occupation two landing grounds existed which were suitable for the operation of the lighter types of aircraft. These were situated at Miri and Kuching.

On the resumption of Civil Administration the Kuching landing ground, which lies 7 miles to the South of the town, had one metalled strip of approximately 1,000 yards length and 50 yards width, in almost serviceable condition. The remainder of this area was dotted with bomb craters and was, therefore, quite unserviceable. A minimum of work sufficient to maintain this strip to 1,016 yards in length and 35 yards width was carried out pending a decision regarding the construction of a suitable airport for present day requirements. During 1947 investigations were made for the realignment of the runway in order to provide a minimum length of 1,200 yards, and a preliminary estimate was made. This project was, however, later abandoned as the approaches were considered to be unsatisfactory for modern aircraft, and the proposed 1,200 yard runway could not have been extended at reasonable cost at a later date. A search had, therefore, to be made for a suitable site elsewhere, which was found in jungle country less than 1 mile to the North of the existing runway. Here there were no approach obstructions, comparatively little earthwork was anticipated and there were possibilities for extension to over 2,000 yards. In 1948 approval of a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was given and work was put in hand on this project.

Progress in the construction of this new airport was disappointing during 1948 due to unusually heavy rainfall and unreliable equipment. Late in December the opportunity of acquiring some new equipment was taken and two new bull-dozers and scrapers were delivered. By the end of 1949 good progress had been made in spite of delays in obtaining spare parts for machinery and other materials.

The new Airport is designed to provide an all weather asphalt macadam surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide. Consolidated grass surfaced safety verges 75 yards wide are to be provided on each side of the runway and at each end of the runway

consolidated grass surfaced overrun 200 yards in length is being constructed. An asphalt macadam taxiway to an apron of similar construction is provided adjacent to the airport building. The building provides for control tower, signals room, meteorological office, waiting and refreshment room, office, customs, immigration and health accommodation. Work progressed satisfactorily during the year under review and on September 26th His Excellency the Governor formally opened the new Airport. Since this date schedule services have been maintained without interruption.

Malayan Airways Limited, operating twice-weekly through Kuching on the Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore route, proved insufficient to cope with increasing traffic; and during May 1950, an additional weekly schedule, Singapore-Kuching-Singapore, was instituted. This service was maintained until 14th July when traffic requirements over the remainder of the Borneo route justified extension to Sandakan, thereby establishing three schedules weekly through Kuching, Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore.

During 1950 a total of 270 landings were effected by Malayan Airways Limited. Two of these were made at night, utilizing portable emergency-flarepath facilities. Throughout the year they have landed 909 passengers in Kuching, uplifted 944, and carried 1,667 in transit.

Kuching has, in the past — chiefly by reason of Malayan Airways Limited utilization of this type of aircraft — been almost entirely connected with DC3 operations. Classification of the new airport according to ICAO specifications, however, establishes it in category E5 with a runway bearing capacity of 30,000 pounds per single isolated wheel load, thereby permitting operation of much heavier machines. In addition, Kuching Airport has been organized and equipped in accordance with the terms of Articles 5 and 8 of the 1944 International Sanitary Convention of Aerial Navigation, and also conforms to the requirements of Article I (ii) of the same Convention. The World Health Organization has accordingly been requested to confirm this

airport as an "Authorized Aerodrome", or "Sanitary Aerodrome", and "as constituting a local area". Such classifications will, therefore, justify designation of Kuching as an International Airport.

Development and operation of Navigational, Approach, and Landing facilities covering Sarawak territory and Kuching Airport was undertaken on a three-year contractual basis by International Aeradio Limited. Despite unavoidable delays in manufacture and shipment of radio equipment progress had been very encouraging. Throughout the year under review Kuching Airport has provided Approach and Aerodrome Control facilities on two VHF and one HF radio-telephone channels, VHF Direction-Finding for homing aircraft to the Airport, one W/T channel guarding the aircraft "enroute" communication frequency, and Point-to-Point

communications with Singapore and North Borneo. In addition, a radio-beacon operated by Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kuching, has been installed as an Approach and Let-down and also a Route Navigational facility.

It is proposed to begin work in 1951 on the reconstruction of the airfield at Sibu originally started by the Japanese and later destroyed by Allied air action. It is intended to provide a consolidated gravel surfaced runway 1,200 yards long by 50 yards wide. This will serve as an alternate to Kuching and will probably be used for schedule services.

The grass surfaced landing ground at Lutong near Miri has been maintained by the Sarawak Oilfields Limited who operate for their private use one amphibian and one land aircraft.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### AIR

The most notable event of the year was the arrival in June 1958 of two Twin Pioneer aircraft to join the fleet of Rapide aircraft of Borneo Airways Limited. More airfields were brought into operation in the internal air communications network. The Twin Pioneer with its remarkably short take-off and landing made possible commercial air communications to remote mountainous areas that could not previously be considered.

Sarawak depends on small airfields to maintain communication during the north-east monsoon between trading communities separated by vast stretches of jungle and wide, fast flowing rivers. These small trading centres are in turn connected with main line air services linking Sarawak with Singapore and the Malayan mainland on the one side, and Brunei and North Borneo on the other.

New airfields were brought into regular scheduled service at Lawas, Mukah and Simanggang and into occasional use for charter work at Sematan and Long Akah. Airfields were under construction at Belaga and

Marudi.

### Public Air Transport

Borneo Airways Limited with a fleet of two Twin Pioneer and three Rapide aircraft operated internal air schedules, and charter to small hinterland airstrips. It is a private company, with capital jointly subscribed by the Governments of North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak, the British Overseas Airways Corporation and Malayan Airways Limited, the Governments holding the majority of the shares. The Company is registered at Kuching and the operating base is at Labuan.

Malayan Airways Limited with Douglas DC3 aircraft operated daily services from Singapore, to and through Sarawak to Brunei, North Borneo and back.

Cathy Pacific Airways extended its weekly Hong Kong to Labuan service to Kuching.

Air services in operation at the end of 1958 were:-

## INTERNATIONAL

Class	Route	Frequency
First	Hong Kong-Labuan-Kuching-Labuan	once weekly
Tourist	Hong Kong Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly
Tourist	Singapore-Kuching-Brunei Town-Singapore	once weekly
Tourist	Singapore-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly
First	Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Labuan-Jesselton-Sandakan-Jesselton-Labuan-Brunei Town-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	twice weekly
First	Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Labuan-Jesselton-Labuan-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly
Tourist	Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Labuan-Jesselton-Sandakan-Jesselton-Brunei Town-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly
First	Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Brunei Town-Jesselton-Sandakan-Jesselton-Labuan-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly
Tourist	Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Brunei Town-Jesselton-Sandakan-Jesselton-Labuan-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly
First	Singapore-Kuching-Sibu-Labuan-Jesselton-Sandakan-Jesselton-Labuan-Sibu-Kuching-Singapore	once weekly

## INTERNAL

Route	Frequency
Labuan-Brunei Town-Anduki-Lutong-Bintulu-Sibu (Rapid)	twice weekly in each direction.
Labuan-Brunei Town-Anduki-Lutong-Bintulu-Sibu (Twin Pioneer)	twice weekly in each direction.
Sibu-Mukah (Twin Pioneer)	twice weekly in each direction.
Sibu-Simanggang-Kuching (Twin Pioneer)	twice weekly in each direction.
Kuching-Sibu (Twin Pioneer)	twice weekly in each direction.
Labuan-Lawas-Brunei Town (Twin Pioneer)	once weekly in each direction.

## Private Aviation

Sarawak Shell Oilfields Limited frequently use, by service arrangement, aircraft operated by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Limited who maintain their own fleet of three Percival Prince aeroplanes and have two S.55 helicopters on charter from World Wide Helicopters Limited. All these aircraft play a varied role covering communications, supplying drilling crews to marine locations and aerial surveys. The Borneo Evangelical Mission, which has long relied solely on air communications with light aircraft, maintained an Auster Autocar, to supply missionaries in the field. This mission has undertaken many "mercy flights", evacuating the sick from remote areas.

## Military Aviation

Military aircraft of the Royal Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force continued to use Kuching Airport as a staging post between Singapore and Hong Kong.

## Airports and Airfields

**Kuching** : International Alternate. 4,500 feet by 150 feet metalled runway.

**Sibu** : 3,600 feet by 150 feet. Extended to 4,500 feet by 150 feet by end of year and due to be part metalled in 1959.

**Lutong** : Private airfield owned by Sarawak Shell Oil Company. 1,080 feet by 150 feet. Licensed for operation by Borneo Airways.

## Airfields Constructed for Internal Air Communications

First Division: Sematan. Second Division: Simanggang. Third Division: Mukah. Fourth Division: Bintulu, Long Akah and Bario. Fifth Division: Lawas Civil.

## Airfields constructed by Borneo Evangelical Mission

Lawas Mission, Long Semado, Ba Kelalan, Lio Matu, Long Tebangan, Long Gong, Long Atip, Long Banga.

## Airfields under construction at 31st December, 1958

### Marudi and Belaga

Air Traffic Control Services were provided by the Sarawak Government at Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu and Lutong, and Aerodrome Advisory Services at Sematan, Simanggang, Mukah and Lawas Civil Airfields. Meteorological synoptic observation stations at Kuching, Bintulu and Miri undertake regular observations in accordance with World Meteorological Organisation specifications, including day and night pilot balloon observations.



# The Opening Of The 7th Mile Kuching Airport By His Excellency The Governor Of Sarawak Sir Anthony Abell in 1950



*The gyratory of Kuching 7th mile airport.*

Out of the jungle has come a modern and up-to-date airport — the finest in Sarawak and, indeed, in British Borneo. That this has been achieved by our own Public Works Department, and our own local contractors and artisans is something of which we are justly proud. The Airport is the largest and most costly engineering project undertaken in Sarawak since the liberation, and stands as evidence of the march of progress and of the development work now being undertaken, which, although slow to start is gathering momentum.

The new airport costs approximately \$600,000 and has been paid for by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. It is not, of course, the only scheme financed from this source, but it is the first large Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme which has been completed.

Pre-war residents will remember that work on the original Kuching airport was

started in 1935 and the airfield was officially opened on the 26th of September, 1938. It consisted of two grass-surfaced runways, each 800 yards long. At the time of the Japanese invasion in 1941, work was in progress on the extension of one of the runways, but, on the night of the Japanese landing both runways were temporarily destroyed. Extensions to the runways were built by the Japanese, but these in turn were destroyed by Australian bombing later. The liberating forces hastily reconditioned a runway of an approximate length of 1,000 yards. A further 200 yard extension completed the runway which has been in use until the 26th September.

The need for a runway of not less than 1,500 yards in length and with safe and easy approaches for the operation of modern aircraft ruled out any further development of the old ground at an economic cost. A jungle covered ridge which had been a serious obstruction in the approaches to the old airfield,





was investigated and found suitable for the construction of a runway up to 2,000 yards long 50 yards wide, running approximately N.E. by E. and S.W. by W. and giving clear approaches at both ends. The ridge is approximately 50 feet higher than the old landing ground and, as it conformed in every way with post war requirements this site was selected.

Work commenced, on the new runway in 1948. It is a macadam-surfaced runway 1,500 yards long with grass overruns at each end of 200 yards. It is 50 yards wide with 75 yard grass safety verges on each side. It has been constructed as far as possible to I.C.A.O. standards. In the construction of the runway, apron and taxiway approximately 35,000 tons of stone have been used, all obtained from a nearby quarry. As a finishing touch, a new and shorter access road will be built which will turn off Penrissen Road at the 6th Mile.

The new Airport has a terminal building with control tower, waiting room for



passengers and offices for the Immigration, Customs and Health officers and for airlines and air control staff. Near to the terminal building stand quarters for the Air Control Officers, and generating house and store houses. When the newly laid lawns and gardens have grown the whole area should present a most pleasing spectacle.

The Airport was opened by His Excellency the Governor at 11 a.m. on the 26th September. A fitting day, as it was on this very



day in 1938 that the old landing ground was opened. Never had the Penrissen Road seen such heavy traffic as the morning of the opening when visitors made their way to the airport in cars, buses and on bicycles to attend the opening ceremony. In the early morning rain threatened to spoil the function but before the hour set for the official opening the weather cleared and the sun had come out.

Before the opening a special Malayan Airways Dakota carrying officials and press representatives from Singapore landed on the old landing ground. An amphibian aircraft also arrived from Seria at about 10 o'clock bringing officials from the North.

At 11 o'clock the Malayan Airways Dakota landed on the new runway and His Excellency stepped out of the aircraft. With His Excellency was the Chief Secretary, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Civil Aviation, Malaya, Mr. K.N. Black and Mr. W. Inglis. His Excellency then made an address (the text of which appears below), after which he formally opened the airport building.

Two Brigands, four Tempests and a Dakota of the Royal Air Force then flew over the airfield, and visitors were entertained to a display of aerobatics by one of the Tempests.

In the afternoon, the Malayan Airways

Dakota took about 200 persons for joy flights of approximately fifteen minutes duration over and around Kuching.

The following is the text of His Excellency the Governor's address:-

"To-day, the 26th of September, is celebrated throughout the country as the Rajah's birthday. I know that he will be glad to hear that we have observed his birthday in this appropriate way by opening the most up-to-date airport in Sarawak and indeed in British Borneo. This symbol of the progress we are making will, I believe, be particularly pleasing to him, since it was the Rajah who, with characteristic foresight and in advance of his time, inaugurated in Sarawak an internal air service as long ago as 1928. Then ten years later in 1938 on this very day, the 26th September, the old landing ground which we have used for the last time to-day, was opened."

"It is fitting on this occasion that I should first make public our sincere appreciation of the generosity of His Majesty's Government whose financial assistance has alone made this project possible. A sum of over half a million dollars — the total cost of the runway — has been contributed by His Majesty's





*A big crowd attended the opening ceremony and to witness the Royal Air Force planes on display.*

Treasury, as a free gift from the tax payers of Great Britain to Sarawak. We should indeed be grateful to the people of Great Britain who, I may remind you, are the most highly taxed in the world, for their unselfish assistance to us the youngest member of the British family of nations. I think we can tell them with pride that their money has been well spent and that we shall not forget their generosity."

"Ten years ago in this month of September there was fought over the farm lands and the cities of England the greatest air battle of history. That battle was won by the skill and fortitude of the Royal Air Force and by this victory the world was saved from countless years of slavery. To-day with admiration and gratitude we welcome the Royal Air Force to Kuching and we hope that in the future, now that we can offer them much improved facilities, they will pay us many such friendly visits to our mutual benefit and satisfaction."

"This Airport is probably the largest and most costly engineering project ever undertaken in this country and it is pleasing to think that it has been achieved by our own Public Works Department, our own local contractors and our own artisans and labour, and I know you will agree with me that they have done us great credit and are to be congratulated and thanked for their skill

and hard work. This is, I feel, a suitable occasion for me to make public acknowledgement of the debt that Sarawak owes to our Director of Public Works who has given 24 years of outstanding service to this country. When Teddy Edwards leaves the service he will, I know, take with him the good wishes of us all but he will leave behind him many outstanding memorials of his skill and artistry and none that will affect our lives and the lives of this country more than this airport.

"Finally, I would like to say a word about Malayan Airways who will be, we hope for many years, the principal and most frequent visitors to this airport. There is a temptation, encouraged by their past record, to take for granted the efficient regularity and reliability of the service which we are offered and so gratefully accept but I know how much we all appreciate the great skill and matured experience of the pilots and the courtesy and efficiency of the Company's staff which allows us to keep in such constant and close contact with our homes and families, our friends and interests in other lands. We thank them for their past services and wish them the best of luck for the future."

"I declare the new Kuching Airport open. May all who pass this way do so in peace and in safety".

# **SIBU'S NEW AIRSTRIP IS NOW READY**

## **REGULAR SERVICE BEGINS JULY 1**



*The first plane to land on Sibu Airfield, on Wednesday, 21st May, 1952.*

Sibu's much-discussed new airstrip is now ready and equipped with all the latest facilities to ensure efficient service and maximum safety will be open to a regular air service as from 1st July, 1952 (next Tuesday).

A proving flight was made by a Malayan Airways aircraft sometime ago and the result was one which gave great satisfaction. The establishment of a regular service between Sibu and the outside world will mark another milestone in the records of the Colony's communications.

A Malayan Airways aircraft will leave Singapore every Tuesday of the week, calling at Kuching Airport then at Sibu and finally Labuan. The same aircraft will leave Labuan every Wednesday of the week, calling at Sibu, Kuching and then Singapore. Another service in the week will be in the form of the normal Friday schedule, when the MAL Dakota will call at Kuching from Singapore, then Sibu and North Borneo, returning the next day (Saturday) by the same route: The fare will be, for passengers: \$40 single and for freight: 30 cents per kilo.



# Bintulu Airstrip



*Bintulu airport as seen in 1955.*

A proving flight to Bintulu Airfield by a Rapide Aircraft of Sabah Airways Limited was successfully made on Friday 26th August, 1955 (see pictures next) Piloted by Captains Robertson and Nicholls, the aircraft took off from Labuan at 9.10 a.m. and arrived over Bintulu at 10.55 a.m. The Rapide aircraft, the registrations letters of which are VROAA, or in the International Aeronautical phonetic alphabet, Victor Romeo Oscar Alpha Alpha, was the first aircraft to land at Bintulu Airfield. The aircraft was met by the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Secretary Mr. J.C.H. Barcroft, the Acting Assistant Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. J.E. Seal, the District Officer Mr. P. Scanlon and the engineer who built the airstrip, Mr. R.B. Beatie. The whole Bintulu Community were waiting at the strip and many inspected the aircraft at close quarters for the first time. Sabah Airways flew 14 members of the Community on a sight seeing tour around Bintulu, most of whom had never flown before.



Bintulu is the first place in Sarawak to have a Government build Feeder Service Airstrip. Work was started on an airstrip at Bintulu before the war, but was not completed by the time of the occupation. The Japanese completed a landing ground and used it during the war. During the closing phases of the war Allied Forces heavily bombed the landing ground, and when reconstruction work was started in late 1953, there were several hundred bomb holes to clean out and fill.

The present dimensions of the airstrips are 2640 feet by 90 feet with over-runs of 300 feet and side clearances of 60 feet giving an overall 3210 feet by 210 feet.



*Bintulu airport.*



Bintulu airport is one of the airports located nearest to the town centre and it seems there is no distance at all. In fact the

town itself is built around it. The Malay Kampong along the bank of the Kemena River and the airstrip as could be seen in 1957.



Bintulu district covers an area of approximately 4,573 square miles comprising the valleys of the Kemena and Anap rivers. Bintulu is the capital of the district. A very attractive little town at the mouth of the Kemena, it possesses a good airfield, and is readily accessible by air. Bintulu airport turned to be busy port in 1965 with the introduction of everyday flight Dakota planes

from North and South made 793 sorties to Bintulu. Later, in May 1963 the first S.F. 27 Friendship was introduced into domestic services in Sarawak. When the construction work on the strengthening and lengthening of the Bintulu airfield is completed to allow the Fokker Friendship to land, the numbers of passengers are bound to increase tremendously in future.

# Lutong Airstrip



*The landing of the D.C. 3 Aircraft.*



In 1948 work began on rehabilitating the Lutong airstrip which had been constructed originally during the occupation period. By September 1949, it was in the use by the Company's aircraft. Extended slightly since 1949, the airfield now has a grass runway some

3,666 × 125 feet. Since 1954 and by special arrangement with the Company, the airfield has been in regular use by Borneo Airways Limited. From Lutong they operated regular scheduled flight to Brunei, Marudi, Bintulu and Sibul.



## Simanggang Airfield Ready Soon

The anticipated completion of the airfield at Simanggang sometime next year will mark the establishment of at least one airfield in every division of Sarawak, and it will of course, also mean better inter-division communications.

The Report on Development, 1956, which was presented to the recent Council Negri meeting shows that a total of \$756,255 has been earmarked for expenditure on civil Aviation in 1957. This sum excludes Aeronautical Telecommunications. Of this total Sibu is expected to get \$300,000 for the extension of Sibu Airfield, and Simanggang Airfield is allocated a sum of \$257,600. Mukah Airfield is allocated a sum of \$85,000, Bintulu Airfield \$3,470, preliminary works on Marudi Airfield \$10,000 and a sum of \$39,000 is earmarked for the acquisition of sites.

In the detailed notes contained in the Report on Development under the heading of Civil Aviation, it is reported that a considerable amount of turfing and anti-erosion work has been necessary along the verges of Kuching Airport, the work having been inadequately carried out when the airfield was originally built. The work will continue into 1957.

Construction of an airfield at Simanggang was commenced in February. The airfield will be of the same dimensions as the Bin-



*Two pictures showing workmen and tractor labouring at the Simanggang Airfield construction work of which is now in progress. - GSIS Pictures*

tulu Airfield, that is, a grass runway 2,400 feet long and 90 feet wide with verges 60 feet wide and overruns of 200 feet at each end. The site consists of poor, abandoned rubber land, well above flood level. By the end of the year the airfield had been cleared and stumped, felling of trees along the approaches had been nearly completed and earth moving work had commenced. Construction has not proceeded as rapidly as had been hoped due to the fact that it has never been possible to utilise more than one D7 tractor and 1 D6 tractor on the work. Nevertheless the progress has been steady and it is still hoped that the airfield can be completed in April, 1957. There is ample room for expansion of the airfield should that prove necessary at a later date.

The extension of Sibu Airfield to a total length of 4500 feet has been commenced. This calls for a considerable amount of filling but steady progress has been made. When completed in 1957, two sections of the runway 90 feet wide and 700 feet long and 90 feet wide and 800 feet long at the western and eastern ends respectively will be metalled to reduce wear and tear.

Provisions for the acquisition of sites has been utilised, in addition to the purchase of a site at Simanggang, for the purchase of a further site at Marudi in the Baram.

It was decided during the course of the year that the airfield system should be extended to include Mukah, Saratok, Belaga and Lundu.

Funds for the construction of Mukah Airfield will be made available in 1957 and it is hoped to locate and acquire sites at the other three places. The question of establishing a further airfield at Long Akah in the Baram is being given further consideration. The proposal has been made that a site should be purchased for an airfield at Sarikei though there is no immediate need for an airfield at that place.

An airfield terminal building was completed on

Lutong Airfield to house the control tower and radio equipment and to provide shelter for passengers in transit. The Lutong Airfield is owned by Sarawak Oilfields Limited but is available for use by the Malayan Airways Feeder Service.

The future of air transport development in Sarawak depends largely on the provision of a modern and efficient light transport aircraft with short landing and take-off characteristics. It is hoped that the Scottish Avia-

tion Twin Pioneer will prove to be a suitable aircraft for local conditions but confirmation of its performance and the grant of a full Certificate of Airworthiness are still awaited. If this type of aircraft is a commercial success it is hoped that it will be operated on the various Borneo Internal Services. This would enable considerable economies to be affected in airfield construction as compared with the use of conventional aircraft with longer take-off characteristics.

19TH JANUARY, 1957

## Internal Air Services For Borneo's Demonstration Next Month

The new "Twin Pioneer" plane, which may prove to be the suitable aircraft for Borneo's internal services, is to be demonstrated in Sarawak early next month.

The demonstration aircraft, which is an 18,000 mile flight from Britain to Australia, is expected to call at Kuching from Singapore about February 10.

During its two-day stay in Kuching the plane will be put through its paces to show its unique capabilities. It will then be flown to other airfields in Sarawak before going to Brunei and North Borneo.

This first plane designed and built in Scotland, the "Twin Pioneer" of Scottish Aviation Limited has remarkable operational characteristics — it can land in 104 yards and

take-off in 140 yards.

The twin-engined plane carries 16 passengers, is fitted with the latest radio equipment and fully loaded has a range of 565 miles, cruising at a speed of 139 miles an hour. It can be operated at a cost of less than 10 cents a passenger mile.

The Twin Pioneer has been described as the "big brother" of the single-engined Prestwick Pioneer which has a long established reputation in Malayan jungle operations.

Mr. L. Holliday of the Civil Aviation Department in Sarawak said in Kuching yesterday: "The Twin Pioneer would be an ideal aircraft for Borneo if it can meet specific operational requirements under tropical conditions".



*The "Twin Pioneer" aircraft, a logical development of the single engine "Prestwick Pioneer" aircraft, which has so fully demonstrated the exceptionally take-off and landing performance.*



# SEQUEL TO TWIN PIONEER DEMONSTRATION

## Service Before Year-End Possible

Important discussions were held in Kuching this week on the future of the internal air services within the three Borneo territories.

They were held on Monday and Tuesday and attended by two representatives each from the Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei governments, the Director of Civil Aviation in the Borneo Territories, Mr. R.L. Milton and two British Overseas Airways Corporation officials from London — Mr. J. Linstead, Chief Officer, Associated Companies, and Mr. B. Wood of the Legal Department. The Government representatives were: Brunei — Mr. E.R. Bevington, Commissioner for Development and Mr. W. Cousens, State Treasurer; North Borneo — Mr. M.V. Saville, Assistant Secretary and Mr. A.D. Farrell, Acting Attorney-General; and Sarawak — Mr. B.A. Hepburn, Acting Financial Secretary and Mr. A.R. Morrison, Acting Development Secretary.

The Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. Milton, said after the meeting that it was not possible to give any details of the discussions at this stage. He stated, however, that there had been widespread public interest in the new "Twin Pioneer" aircraft following the recent demonstration flights in Borneo.

Ever since 1953, he added, Civil Aviation officials and the Governments of the territories had been closely following the progress of aircraft from the drawing board stage.

through construction to actual production, and in January, 1956, the Borneo Governments had placed an order with the manufacturing firm, Scottish Aviation Limited, for two such aircraft to ensure reasonable early delivery and operation on the routes within Borneo, and negotiations for the actual purchase contract were under way.

Mr. Milton said that the demonstration aircraft had covered most of the routes now operated by De Havilland Rapide aircraft. In addition landings had been made at Long Atip, in the Fourth Division and Lawas, Fifth Division. Airfields at both these places had previously been rated as possible only for operations of light aircraft such as the Auster used by the Borneo Evangelical Mission.

Mr. Milton added that he had flown extensively in the aircraft during the past week. The introduction of the Twin Pioneer into Borneo, he said, would fill the most urgent need to improve the existing communications system and greatly assist in the general development of the interior areas.

He was, however, unable to give a definite date as to when the aircraft would be put into service since it still had to obtain certain certificates from the United Kingdom Air Registration Board, but he was hopeful that the service would start well before the end of this year.

## Malayan Airways' 10-Year Anniversary

May Day is one of the most important days of the year as festivals, anniversaries, political occasions and the like are usually celebrated at this time; but for Malayan Airways, May Day, 1957 — last Wednesday — had particular significance. Ten years ago that day, Captain E. Woodrow flew the first scheduled Malayan Airways flight from Singapore to Kuala Lum-

pur, Ipoh and Penang. From this small beginning Malayan Airways has grown until today their services cover some 4,800 unduplicated route miles.

The first occasion on which paying passengers were carried, however, occurred a few weeks earlier, when on the morning of 2nd April, 1947, Captain J.R. Brown, piloting



an Airspeed Consul aircraft, flew a charter flight from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur.

As early as 1937 a Company was registered under the title of Malayan Airways, but it was not until 1947 that the Company acquired aircraft and started operations. The Straits Steamship Company of Singapore and the Ocean Steamship Co. Ltd., of Liverpool were responsible for the founding of the Company, which has been operating for 10 years under the management of Mansfield & Co. Ltd of Singapore.

By early 1947 work on the main airfields in the Federation of Malaya and Singapore had brought them up to minimum standards required for civil operations, and the Company had taken delivery of three Airspeed Consul aircraft which carried a crew of two and five passengers.

## PROVING FLIGHTS

Proving flights were then carried out by Captain D.W. Fenton, the Company's Chief Pilot who is also Operations Manager. By the end of 1956, Captain Fenton had completed a total of 13,250 flying hours covering a distance of 1,987,500 miles and 12,000 landings.

The three Consul aircraft soon proved to be inadequate for a rapidly increasing number of passengers, and so three Douglas DC3 aircraft — the familiar Dakota — were purchased. Since that time the fleet has been increased until today there are eleven DC3's some fitted with 21 seats, some 23, and some 28.

By the end of 1947, in addition to the domestic services within the Malayan Archipelago, some international services were being operated to Batavia, as it was then called, to Palembang, Medan and Saigon. In April, 1948 a weekly flight to Bangkok was ended and in June, 1949, a service to the Borneo territories was instituted. This replaced the R.A.F. service which had been operating in this area since the close of the war, and initially called at Kuching, Labuan and Jesselton.

## DEVELOPMENT IN BORNEO

In October of that year an extension was made to Sandakan, and, three years later — in July 1952 — the first service called at Sibü. A more westerly point was added in September 1949. This was Rangoon, and the service called occasionally at Mergui and was the last international point to be added to Malayan Airways' routes.

The development within the Borneo territories started with operations in May 1953, initially within the confines of North Borneo, but this has now been extended to include



*Some of the Malayan Airways Air Hostesses are seen in this Malayan Airways photograph above. They are Maggie Koh, Kitty Kong, Dorothy de Souza, Doreen Thio, Grethel Rodrigues, Evelyn Teo, Shirley van der Beek. Violet Lee and Helena Soong.*

services to Brunei and Sarawak. For these services the Company acquired two de Havilland Rapide aircraft which subsequently proved to be admirably suited to the rugged operating conditions in the area. Services were operated between Ranau, Jesselton, Labuan and Keningau and these were extended to take in Anduki, Tawau, Lahad Datu and Kudat in subsequent months.

## STATISTICS

Statistics available show that from 1st May, 1948 to 30th April, 1949, 55,228 passengers were carried, whilst in the year ending 31st December, 1956, the Company carried a total of 156,580 passengers on their scheduled services alone. Over the same period scheduled miles flown have increased from 1,169,073 to 3,007,900. The longest single flight is from Singapore to Sandakan, a distance of 1,100 miles. During the year ending 31st December, 1956, there were 19,561 landings representing one landing every quarter of an hour during the daylight hours within the region. These landings were accomplished during the 23,939 hours flown by the fourteen aircraft comprising the Company's fleet during the year. On the freight side, a total of 3,856 tons of cargo and 595 tons of mail was carried in the year ending December 31st, 1956.

The Company's Managing Director, Captain R.P. Mollard, who has been connected with aviation for over thirty years, was one of the early pilot pioneers of the air route from the U.K. to the Far East. He was, in fact, pilot of the DH66 aircraft which operated the first service of Imperial Airways to Malaya and landed at Alor Star and Singapore in 1931.

# New Agreement On Malayan Airways

High-level civil aviation talks in which Sarawak was represented by the Chief Secretary, Mr. J.H. Ellis, were held in Singapore last weekend.

An official statement issued when the talks ended said it had been agreed "in the general interest and from the economic and operational points of view" that Malayan Airways should serve all five territories — Singapore, the Federation, Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo — and be supported by them.

A local airline would provide a supplementary service in Borneo while its operation would be conducted in close association with Malayan Airways.

The statement went on: "The discussion and proposals which resulted from them took account of the interests of all concerned and of the travelling public.

"The Federation Government has already agreed to invest \$500,000 in Malayan Airways and it is proposed that the Singapore and Borneo Governments should likewise take shares to a comparable amount in the

reconstituted company. It is contemplated that British Overseas Airways Corporation and Qantas Empire Airways will have substantial shareholdings.

"The present shareholders will also contribute and there will be an opportunity for the local public to participate. It is contemplated that Malayan Airways will have holdings in the Borneo airline.

"The proposals provide for the participation of the Governments in the operations of the company through the appointment of directors on the board representing the Federation, Singapore and the Borneo territories.

"The reconstituted company will make an important contribution to the development of aviation services in South East Asia and will maintain the existing very high reputation of Malayan Airways for reliability and safety."

"These proposals are under urgent study by the Governments concerned with a view to preparing the final and detailed texts of the agreement."

7TH JUNE, 1957

## Operation 3 Months' Time Twin Pioneers For Internal Feeder Service

The two Twin Pioneer aircraft which have been ordered for the Internal Feeder Service of British Borneo, should be in operation within the next three months, it was learned in Kuching yesterday.

The first of these aircraft should arrive in Kuching from Britain before the end of this month. Piloting it, will be Captain R.B. Robertson, Chief Pilot of the Feeder Service. The second plane should follow shortly afterwards.

In the initial period, the Twin Pioneers, which carry sixteen passengers and freight, will be used for crew and route familiarisation. In addition to flying the existing routes Simanggang has been included as one of the towns to be served by the Feeder Service, then on to Kuching. The Internal Feeder Service will then link up Kuching with Simanggang, Sibul, Bintulu, Miri, Anduki and Brunei to North Borneo.

Simanggang airfield will be ready as soon as dry weather permits the final stages of construction. Immediately after Simanggang is finished, work will start on the construction of the Mukah airfield.

Mr. John Seal of the Civil Aviation Department has just made a long tour of inspection of ulu airstrips in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions. He said that at Marudi, the airfield site, consisting of rubber and primary jungle, had been stumped and cleared under the direction of the District Officer, Mr. Ian Urquhart.

The ulu airstrips that were visited to assess their suitability for possible Feeder Service operations are: Long Atip in the Apoh; Long Tebangan in the Akah; Lio Matu in the Ulu Baram; Bario in the Kelabit highlands; Ba Kelalan, Ulu Kelalan; and Long Semado, Ulu Trusan. A survey was also made for a Government airstrip site at Lawas.



# Sixteen Airfields Ready By 1960

## Communications Problem Nears Solution



*An aerial view of Bintulu (Fourth Division) airfield.*

Sarawak should have 16 airfields in operational use by the internal air service of British Borneo by 1960.

This was stated in Kuching yesterday by Mr. John Seal, of the Civil Aviation Department.

There are at present four feeder service and mainline airfields in use throughout the country — Kuching, Sibul, Lutong and Bintulu. Simanggang Airfield is almost completed and airstrips are now being built at Mukah, Marudi and Long Akah. Construction of airstrips will begin later at Sematan, Lawas and Belaga. It may also be found possible to build an airstrip at Saratok during this period.

In addition to these new airfields, improvements are being made to five ulu airstrips to bring them up to ulu feeder service operational standards. These are at Long Atip, Lio Matu and Bareo, in the Fourth Division and at Ba Kelalan and Long Semado, in the Fifth Division.

Approved capital expenditure on the development of airfields between 1957 and 1960 is \$550,000. In addition, there will be the cost of installing aeronautical telecommunications and fire fighting equipment.

Mr. Seal said that the development and use of these airfields would help to solve the problem of communications in Sarawak.

He added: "It takes, for instance, about three months for a Kelabit from Bareo to travel to Marudi and back. The journey is a difficult one and has to be made on foot and by river. A direct flight from Bareo to Marudi or Lawas would only take 45 minutes."

Mr. Seal went on to say that the opening up of internal air communications in the country would considerably facilitate the development of the country. It would bring medical and agricultural services within closer and easier reach of the people.

Mr. Seal, who recently returned from a five-week tour of the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, spoke of the keen interest being taken by the people there in civil aviation developments.

"At Bareo, for example, the people of the district — men, women and children — all joined in and worked overtime to improve their airstrip."

"Because of the impossibility of bringing in heavy machinery to do the work, they got down to the job with changkols, shovels and home made earth-carrying sledges," he said.

The internal air services will be operated by Borneo Airways Limited using Twin Pioneer aircraft.

It is hoped that an ulu air service will be in operation next year.



# Expansion Of Malayan Airline

One of the finest small airlines in the world, Malayan Airways Ltd., with its enviable record of 10 years' service without the slightest injury to more than 1,000,000 passengers it has carried, is to be expanded with British and Australian resources and money. Britain's BOAC and Australia's Qantas airlines are to become the major shareholders with 51% of the shares.

In post-war, airline travel has opened-up the Federation of Malaya to an extent which was inconceivable only a few years ago. Today twin-engine Dakota aircraft carrying passengers and freight criss-cross this country of hot, steaming jungles as frequently as buses do in Western countries.

Fast communications have brought new wealth and prosperity to small towns which for centuries have lived in isolation, cut-off and remote from the outside world.

## SHARES TREBLED

Now, the capital invested in Malayan Airways Ltd. is to be increased from the present M\$2,500,000 to M\$8,000,000. This will mean more than trebling the current number of shares — from 250,000 to 800,000. The public of Malaya and Borneo are to be offered 250,000 of the shares. BOAC and Qantas combined will hold a share capital of just over M\$4,000,000.

The Federation of Malaya and Singapore Governments are each to buy 50,000 shares for M\$500,000; and three Borneo Governments are jointly to buy another 50,000.

That a substantial amount of British capital is to be invested in this airline indicates, far more than any hollow words, the faith that British financiers have in the future of Malaya, Singapore and the Borneo territories.

## STAFF

The majority of the airline pilots in Malayan Airways are Britons but one Malayan captain has already taken over command and this policy of training Malaysians to take over top posts will continue

in the future. In fact, the second pilot in all Malayan Airways planes these days is an Asian.

The new company has undertaken to make provision for training and promotion schemes "to ensure the fullest practicable employment and advancement of locally domiciled staff, who have the appropriate basic qualifications, compatible with the maintenance of proper standards of safety and efficiency."

The company will tell the Governments when necessary how it recruits, trains and promotes air crews and certificated ground maintenance staff. In addition, it is bound by the 10-year agreement, just signed, to consider any proposals by the Government for improving this staff advancement scheme and to co-operate in implementing mutually agreed proposals.

During the first seven years, the Malayan Governments may not grant or facilitate the grant to any person of a licence to operate a similar service.

## NEW SET UP

Under the new set-up, too, the control of the Federation Government's own Federation Air Service will be passed to the reconstituted Malayan Airways. Today the Federation Air Service, which operates single-engine sturdy Beaver aircraft, is run by the State-owned Malayan Railways.

This service was formed a few years ago at the height of the Emergency in Malaya to get passengers into tiny townships which did not have their own airports. A Beaver is able to land on a very small grass strip.

With the improvement of the Emergency situation, there has been a substantial reduction of flights during the last two years. Many Malaysians who, however, still use these Beavers hope that this service will not lose its character when it is taken over by a parent company.

One of the novelties of flying by Beaver is

that a passenger can go to a grass landing strip "on speck", and if there is a seat, buy a ticket from the pilot, just like skipping onto a bus or tram. No swanky airline offices for the Federation Air Service, no booking clerks and attractive hostesses, but at the same time it has an air of informality and charm which has endeared itself to everyone who has ever flown by them.

The Beavers perform an invaluable service, especially along Malaya's east coast where travel by road is not always as comfortable as it might be and where distances are often lengthy between towns.

No country in the world is more air-conscious than that of Malaya. Now that Kuala Lumpur's new international airport is completed, it has already established itself as a most popular visiting place for thousands of Malaysians, who delight in watching planes take off and land.

## AIR CONSCIOUSNESS

Then, too, there are thousands of aborigines (jungle folk living in isolated settlements) in Malaya who have travelled by aeroplane but never seen a motor car or a train. When the Communist terrorists in Malaya threatened to intimidate aborigine tribes, the Government frequently organised mass evacuation of them to another reserve. This was more often than not done by helicopters or light RAF planes and between them the whole villages were airlifted from one place to another.

Stories are often told in Kuala Lumpur of

aborigines who, at the sight of their first motor-car or passenger bus have been terrified to enter maintaining that these machines are unsafe; yet ask them to take a flight in a helicopter or any other type of aircraft and they will be delighted to accept "at the drop of a hat" without the slightest qualms about safety.

Air-mindedness in Malaya is undoubtedly the outcome of Malaya's emergency, now in its 10th year. Through dire necessity of getting people from A to B with the utmost speed and safety, the country's air services have developed at a speed out of all proportion to the time it has taken to reach today's achievements.

## THE FUTURE

And in the next 10 years, strides forwards are perhaps going to be even greater with the backing of two of the world's major airlines. It is no secret that several most ambitious schemes are afoot ready to be introduced in the near future.

With Malaya's fast-growing population — today 6,250,000 but a figure which will probably doubled in the next 15 to 20 years — the need is most vital for ambitious plans to be made now if air traffic is to keep in step with the demand which will be made on it.

The Malayan Prime Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman, has welcomed the offer by Britain and Australia to put substantial capital into building up Malayan Airways and had pledged that their confidence in this country will not be unrewarded.

# Better Prospects For Internal Air Services

## Borneo Airways

March 4, 1958

The first Board Meeting of Borneo Airways was held on Saturday, March 1, in Kuching.

The Company has agreed to take over the assets of Sabah Airways and of the Malayan Airways Feeder Services in Borneo.

The authorised capital of the Company, which is registered in Sarawak, is \$1,500,000. Issued capital amounts to \$580,000 of which

51 percent is held by the Governments of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei and 49 percent by British Overseas Airways Corporation and Malayan Airways.

The Chairman of the Company is Mr. L.C. Harding, Manager of the Chartered Bank, Kuching. There are six Directors of whom three are appointed by the Governments and three by B.O.A.C.

## Directors

The Government Directors are Mr. B.A. St. J. Hepburn (Sarawak), Mr. E.R. Bevington (Brunei) and Mr. A.N. Goode (North Borneo). The B.O.A.C. Directors are Lord Rennell of Rodd, who is also a member of the Board of B.O.A.C., Mr. J.A. Vick and Mr. J. Linstead.

The Company has a ten-year agreement with the three Governments under which it undertakes to operate and develop the internal air services in the three territories. The fleet of aircraft will consist of three Rapides and two Twin Pioneers. It is hoped that the Twin Pioneers will be put into service shortly.

The services of the Company at present link Sibü, Bintulu, Lutong, Anduki, Brunei, Labuan, Jesselton, Kudat, Sandakan, Lahad Datu, Tawau, Ranau and Keningau.

## Additional Scheduled Service

It is hoped soon to introduce additional scheduled services in Sarawak to Lawas, Marudi, Mukah, Simanggang, Kuching and Sematan. The possibility of introducing scheduled services to Long Akah, Long Atip, Bareo and Ba Kelalan will be investigated. It is planned initially to operate charter services to these places.

Surveys for additional interior airfields both in North Borneo and Sarawak are being undertaken by the Department of Civil Aviation.

The operations of the Company will be based on Labuan and will be in the charge of Captain T.M. Robertson, formerly Senior Pilot of the Malayan Airways Feeder Services.

March 24, 1958

# New Routes In Feeder Service To Begin Soon Twin Pioneers Arriving

The Director of Civil Aviation of the British Borneo Territories, Mr. R.L. Milton, has announced that he had received information from the British Overseas Airways Corporation, London, that the two new Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer aircraft purchased jointly by the Governments of Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo for use by Borneo Airways, Ltd., left Hurn Airport, England, on 16th April, on the first stage of their 15-day journey to Borneo.

The aircraft carry the North Borneo registration letters VROAE and VROAF, the new colour markings — royal blue and white, and the new insignia of Borneo Airways, Ltd., which consists of the crests of the three Borneo Governments superimposed on a pair of white wings. Captain Nicholls of Borneo Airways, accompanied by his engineer Yee Choi On, is in command of one aircraft and Captain T. Hope, accompanied by engineer, J. Nelson, both of Scottish Aviation, Ltd., is in command of the other. The aircraft are expected to arrive in Labuan on the 29th April after flying the following route: Hurn

(England), Marseilles (France), Rome (Italy), Athens (Greece), Beirut (Lebanon), Damascus (Syria), Baghdad (Iraq), Bahrein, Sharjah (Oman), Jlwani and Karachi (Pakistan), Delhi, Allahabad and Calcutta (India), Rangoon (Burma), Mergui (Thailand), followed by Penang, Singapore, Kuching and Labuan.

## NEW SCHEDULES

After arrival, the aircraft will be engaged in training and familiarisation flights for a short period, but Borneo Airways propose to operate them on their routes with effect from the 15th May, and will shortly be issuing new schedules which will include new routes to Muka, Simanggang and Kuching in Sarawak, and through services from Labuan, Jesselton, Sandakan to Tawau, and flights direct from Jesselton to Sandakan in North Borneo. The existing De Havilland Rapide aircraft will continue to be used on the routes in conjunction with the Twin Pioneers, and the greater passenger seating capacity of the latter will permit an easing of the present acute shortage of space on all route sectors.



# Twin Pioneers Have Come First Landing At Kuching

## Smooth Flight All The Way

April 30, 1958

First landing in British Borneo territories by the two new Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer aircraft purchased jointly by the Governments of Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo for use by Borneo Airways Limitd, was made at Kuching Airport yesterday.

The aircraft, which carry the North Borneo registration letters VROAE and VROAF, the new colour markings — royal blue and white, and the new insignia of Borneo Airways Ltd., which consists of the crests of the three Borneo Governments superimposed on a pair of white wings, touched down at Kuching Airport at 11.40 a.m. yesterday.

At the airport waiting for them were the Acting Financial Secretary, Mr. B.A. Hepburn, the Acting Development Secretary, Mr. A.R.G. Morrison, the Secretary for Local Government, Mr. G.A.T. Shaw and the Operations Officer, Civil Aviation Department, Mr. J. Seal.

The two aircraft were taken over at the Prestwick Factory in Scotland by Captain R. Nicholls and Capt. T.R. Hope, and flown to Hurns airfield at Boscombe from where they took off on their 12 day flight through Nice in France, Athens in Greece, then Rome and the Middle East, Karachi, Penang and Singapore. From Kuching they proceeded yesterday to Labuan where they are to be based.

Captain Nicholls described the flight out as uneventful and smooth. The flight from Singapore to Kuching covered 3 hours and 45 minutes. Capt. Nicholls, remarking on the achievement of the aircraft said they were perhaps the first ever to touch down within 220 yards at Kuching Airport.

Also in the aircraft were Mr. Minno, an engineer of Scottish Aviation, and Mr. Yii Choi On, engineer attached to Borneo Airways.

Sandakan-born Mr. Yii joined the Malayan Airways in October, 1953. Before that and soon after his graduation in Hong Kong he joined the Cathay Air Transport Cor-



*Pictures show (top) Captain Nicholls (left) and Captain Hope; (bottom) the two aircraft at rest at Kuching Airport.*

poration. He earned his Malayan A.C. Licence in 1947. He underwent a three-week course on Twin Pioneer and Alvis Leonids engines before leaving for the flight on April 16. He will be stationed at Labuan. His father, Mr. Yii Chung Yu, who is shortly to retire, is wireless operator in the North Borneo Government service.

The aircraft will be engaged in training and familiarisation flights for a short period. It is learned that Borneo Airways propose to operate them on their routes with effect from 15th May, and will soon be issuing new schedules which will include new routes to Mukah, Simanggang, and Kuching in Sarawak, and the through services from Labuan, Jesselton to Sandakan to Tawau, and flights direct from Jesselton to Sandakan in North Borneo.

# Twin Pioneer Surprise Feeder Service Begins Now

A Borneo Airways Twin Pioneer aircraft rushed from Kuching to Labuan early yesterday afternoon to be put into regular service for the first time following news that a De Havilland Rapide aircraft had burst a tyre on landing at Brunei Airport.

None of the Rapide passengers was hurt but the plane suffered slight damage to its propeller. Malayan Airways Dakota services to Brunei were cut off yesterday as the Rapide was blocking the runway.

News of the incident was flashed to Captain T.M. Robertson, Managing Pilot of Borneo Airways, at Sibu early yesterday morning just before he was due to take off for Kuching on the last leg of a Twin Pioneer proving flight to Sarawak and Brunei airfields.

The Twin Pioneer aircraft of Borneo Airways Limited arrived at Kuching Airport yesterday at 11 a.m. to continue the scheduled proving and demonstration flights which the two aircraft have undertaken since their arrival in Borneo territories at the end of last month. The two aircraft have already carried out proving and demonstration flights in North Borneo.

Yesterday's plane left Labuan, where the aircraft are based, last Monday and carried out proving flights over airstrips in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, flying at very low altitude. Piloted by Captain T.M. Robertson and his co-pilot Mr. Grethead it had as passengers the Director of Civil Aviation Mr. R.L. Milton, the Traffic Operations Officer, Mr. J. Seal, the Head of Programmes, Radio Sarawak, Mr. I.D. Kingsley and the Sarawak Government Press Officer, Mr. I. Kraal.

At Kuching Airport yesterday to meet the plane were Mr. L.C. Harding, Chairman of Borneo Airways Limited; Mr. B.A. Hepburn, the Financial Secretary who is a director of Borneo Airways, and Mr. Davies of Messrs. Henry Waugh Ltd., local agent for Prestwick Scottish Aviation Ltd.

Half an hour after arrival the Twin Pioneer took off again for a demonstration flight over



*Pictures show (left) the Chairman of Borneo Airways Ltd., Mr. L.C. Harding talking with Capt. Robertson after the Twin Pioneer aircraft (right) make its landing at Kuching Airport.*

Kuching town and carried with it as passengers leaders of local commerce and representatives of the press.

It left for Labuan after a demonstration flight was given from Kuching.

Borneo Airways has two Twin Pioneer aircraft which were purchased jointly by the Governments of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei for the expansion of the internal air services of the three territories.

They were scheduled to go into regular service on Sunday, May 18, but the sudden Rapide incident has made it necessary for the Twin Pioneers to "step into the breach".

There will, however, be no changes in the new services — the Rapides will continue as usual to operate from Labuan to North Borneo and the Twin Pioneers will operate a twice weekly Labuan to Sibu service.

Mukah will be taken in on the service beginning May 18.



## Sarawak Thrilled

The first lap was to Lawas which was covered from Labuan in 19 minutes. In a low level flight over the smooth airstrip, I could see men hard at work preparing it for the service in July. One worker even clapped. I also noticed a whole school break class to give the children a chance to watch the plane which dipped in salute to the town before heading for Long Semado.

Long Semado was reached in 22 minutes and nine minutes later we were over Ba Kelalan, a quiet border village in the Kelabit highlands.

It took 11 minutes before the magnificent grass strip at Bareo, built by the men, women and children of the area, came into view.

We were over Long Akah 28 minutes after that and swung north to Marudi passing by Long Atip - a flight which took 35 minutes. From Marudi we headed for Brunei Town, landing there in just over 30 minutes.

The circuit had taken exactly three hours.

Demonstration flights were given at Brunei, Anduki (Seria) and Lutong (Miri) before the Twin made for Bintulu where it appeared that the population had deserted the town for the airfield. Such was the crowd that milled in and around the aircraft that police had to be called to restore order.

I met Harry Buxton, manager of a jelutong business there and a regular user of the Rapide service. He spoke highly of the new aircraft that will serve the town. I also spoke to Pengulus Gema and Mani whose request to see their longhouses at low level had been granted. "It was wonderful to see my family and friends at Sebauh from the air," he said afterwards.

Among the interested onlookers were Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau and other Kenyah headmen.

On to Mukah next and it was here that aviation history was made for the Twin was the first plane ever to land there, touching down well within the 450.



*Captain T.M. Robertson with Penghulus Gani and Gema at Bintulu.*

The Twin Pioneer has thrilled all Sarawak — it is the talk of the country today.

This it did in nine hours thirty minutes on Monday when it carried out a successful proving flight to airfields in Sarawak and Brunei.

Wherever the gleaming, sturdy aircraft of Borneo Airways made its appearance there was gaping and admiring crowds.

Deep in the country people rushed out of their longhouses and kampong homes to catch a glimpse of the plane proudly bearing the name of Borneo and the emblems of Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo. Along the coast too, fishermen craned their necks to gaze in admiration and the streets of busy towns and villages were filled with upturned faces, as the aircraft cruised along, almost symbolising a herald of a 'United Borneo'.



# Sarawak Thrilled

For many of the longhouse dwellers it was a sign of hope that at some time in the near future they would be able to skim over country to the trading centres that now takes weeks of wearisome travel. To many of the coastal people it meant a break from the long, uncomfortable journey over choppy seas and frustrating delays outside shallow river mouths.

The proving flight covered about 1,100 miles. The first stage was an aerial survey of ulu airfields in the Fifth and Fourth Divisions from the Borneo Airways base at Labuan. On board was the man who had built the ulu airfields — Mr. John Seal, the Operations Officers of the Civil Aviation Department in Sarawak; the man who had visualised and planned the introduction of the Twin Pioneers — Mr. Ron Milton, the Director of Civil Aviation, Borneo Territories; the man who had seen the birth of the Twin Pioneer from the drawing board stage — Mr. William Nimmo, Assistant Service Manager of Scottish Aviation Ltd.; and the Managing Pilot of Borneo Airways — Captain T.M. ("Robbie") Robertson.

The Mukah-to-Sibu journey by sea takes a night and costs about \$14 excluding food, I learned. The Twin will do the trip in 22 minutes for \$18 or to Bintulu in 35 minutes for \$24. Enthusiasm soared as the Twin in a short run left Mukah in spectacular climb for Sibu.

The next stop was at Sibu where prominent citizens, as well as Temenggong Jugah, were taken on a flight in cloud-filled sky. This did not, however, worry them judging by the "thumbs up" afterwards.

It was Simanggang's turn next to see the Twin and the people had a close look at it as it circled low. The plane then made a brilliant dummy run towards the new airstrip and shot away for Kuching where two more demonstration flights were given.

I left the aircraft feeling convinced that the people who had seen and flown in yard long runway and proving to the large crowd gathered its incredible performance.

Police whipped into frenzied action as the aircraft taxied in for the enthusiastic crowd

showed signs of breaking through — it was the climax of a week's waiting and discussion. A stream of fire crackers was let off and the welcome scene was made splendid by groups of beautiful Malay girls dressed in gorgeous silver and gold threaded costumes. The lucky few who had been chosen for the joy ride could hardly wait and eagerly boarded the plane. It was a thrilled but nervous Wee Lam Hai, Chairman of Mukah District Council and supervisor of the airfield, who gave the "all clear for take off" instruction. The Twin Pioneer had already given their full confidence and had endorsed the faith that it is the best aircraft available for Sarawak's needs.

"The proving flight has been a successful operation from the technical point of view" said Captain Robertson in Kuching, "Mukah has proved beyond doubt that the Twin Pioneer can operate into the small airfields of Sarawak."

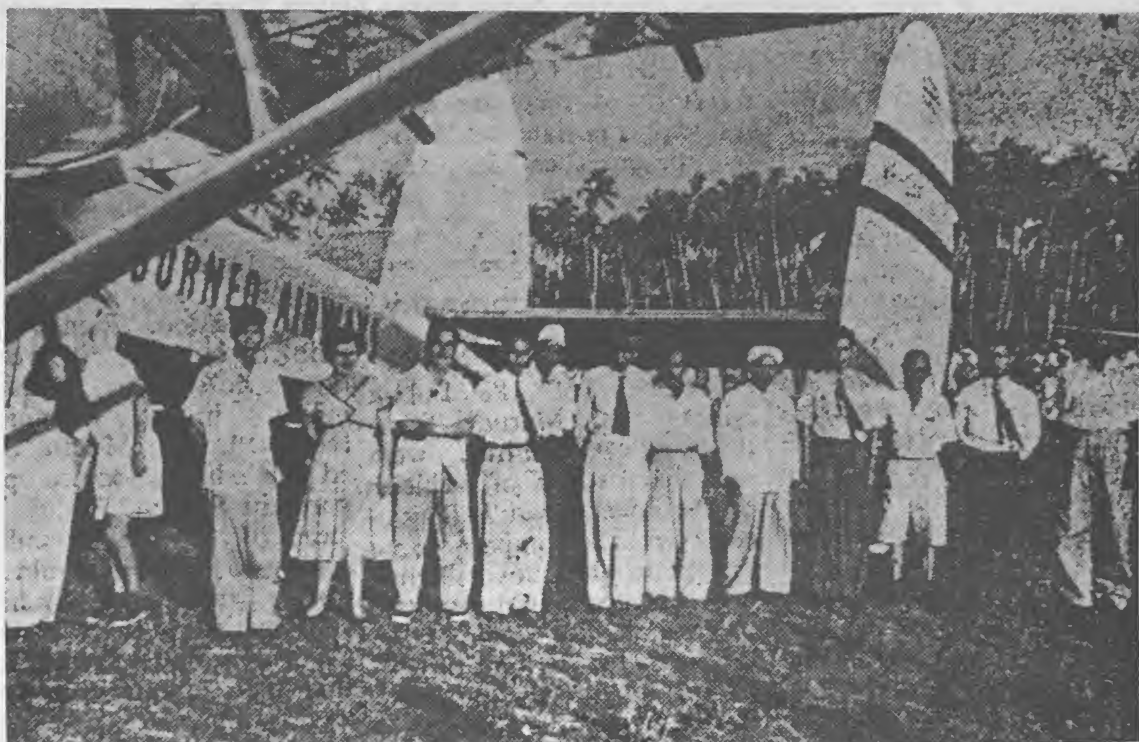
And what about this \$420,000 "wizard of the skies?"

It was designed by Robert McIntyre, co-designer of the famous wartime Hurricane fighter. It was in the air 18 months from the time the drawings were issued. It is the first Scottish-built commercial plane.

It can land "quite comfortably" in 350 yards and take off in about 300 yards. Its range is 500 miles, cruising speed 110 knots, landing and take off speed 65 miles per hour. It can carry 16 passengers provided with 'tropica-lised' seats or about 2,600 lbs. of cargo, is equipped with two VHF radio sets - one spare and 'George' the automatic pilot.

And said the Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. Milton: "The introduction of the Twin Pioneers will enable us to operate to airfields where the existing Rapides cannot get to. The bigger fleet will also give us a chance to adjust times of services suited to the needs of the travelling public and maintain without difficulty the extensive schedules to be operated."

Mr. Milton said that the Twins would not for the present operate to Sarawak's ulu airfields as there were several problems to be overcome first. But, he added, consideration



*The Lucky few at Mukah who had a flight in the Twin Pioneer. — GSIS pictures.*

was being given to introducing a four-seater Single Pioneer into those places.

"After we have consolidated the existing internal routes and planned for future ones there is no reason why Borneo Airways should not think of operating on the local Borneo trade routes, such as to the Southern Philippines," he added.

He thought that as the travelling public grew, people should make their needs known to the Company and suggest ways of improving the services and routes.

Captain Robertson, who has been running the Rapide service for about five years, said that the demand for air travel had grown considerably in Borneo. About 2,000 passengers a

month were being carried with three Rapides in the air.

Borneo Airways, he said, had at present five well-experienced pilots and an excellent maintenance staff headed by Mr. Richard Brooks who had been in aviation since 1915. The Company had two Chinese engineers, who had been through a Twin Pioneer course on engines and air-frames in Scotland.

Under the new scheduled services the Twin Pioneers will operate between Labuan and Sibuan. Within a few months Lawas, Marudi, Simanggang and Kuching will be included in the services and it is hoped to construct an airstrip at Saratok before the end of the year.



# Long Akah and Bario Airstrips Take Twin No Immediate Plan To Begin Regular Service Successful Proving Flights In July 1958

Two successful proving flights were recently made by a Borneo Airways Twin Pioneer aircraft to Long Akah and Bario in the Fourth Division.

The aircraft, piloted by Captain T.M. Robertson, Chief Pilot/Manager of Borneo Airways, first flew from Brunei Town to Long Akah — a 5-minute journey. On board were Mr. John Seal, of the Civil Aviation Department, Sarawak; Mr. F.J. Harper, Deputy Director of Agriculture; Mr. J. Hendrick, Agricultural Officer, Fifth Division and Mr. Petrus Lawai, a Kelabit Agricultural Assistant stationed at Long Lama.

The landing on the 467-yard long airstrip was achieved with 200 yards to spare.

The Twin Pioneer's arrival, however, took the people of the area completely by surprise as they had not been forewarned. But crowds soon gathered around the aircraft. Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau, Paramount Chief of the Kenyahs and members of the Roman Catholic Mission were also there.

The aircraft next took off for Bario and made a touch down on the 571-yard long airstrip, which is 3,700 feet above sea level, on the first approach.

There hundreds of excited people milled around the aircraft which later took a number of leading Kelabit citizens, including Penghulu Lawai Betari, on a joy ride.

The aircraft then flew back to Labuan leaving



*The Long Akah airstrip — Picture by Evelyn Cunningham.*

behind the agricultural officials to make a survey of potentialities of the area.

Mr. Seal said in Kuching yesterday that the landings at Long Akah and Bario did not mean that there was going to be a regular air service to these places.

Subsidising a service to

the ulu airstrips, he added, would involve a heavy financial commitment which the Government could not undertake at the present time. There was, however, the possibility that use would be made of these airstrips for Government charter flight.

## Airstrip At Lawas May 5, 1958



GSIS picture above shows an aerial view of the 1,500 feet long Lawas airstrip which is half a mile away from town. In the picture can also be seen the extensive plane parking and terminal building area.



# Into The International Field

## It's Borneo's Own

The first Dakota DC3 to bear the coat-of-arms of the Borneo territories touched down at Kuching Airport this afternoon August 31, 1958 enroute to Bintulu and Labuan where it will be based.

The Dakota aircraft acquired by Borneo Airways from Malayan Airways was piloted by Capt. Roy Nichols, Chief Pilot of Borneo Airways and Captain C.K. Russell, Operations Manager.

The inaugural flight of this aircraft will be on Monday morning when the DC3 will take off from Tawau to Lahad Datu, Sandakan and Jesselton.

The Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. R.L. Milton and Government officials of North Borneo will fly as guests on board the aircraft.

Today, immediately after refuelling at Kuching Airport, the aircraft took off on a proving flight to Bintulu and Labuan to check the suitability of the Bintulu airfield for DC3.

Captain Nichols who met press representatives here said that the aircraft will also demonstrate another proving flight tomorrow from Labuan.

"The aircraft will fly to Lahad Datu and Tawau, also to check the suitability of the airfields there and later return to Labuan."

"The headquarters and maintenance of the aircraft will be in Labuan where it will be based permanently."

He told the press that the aircraft has been completely modified in accordance with the Air Registration Board requirements.

The DC3 which has a seating capacity for 28 persons has been fitted with two extra seats - allowing accommodation for 30 passengers.

The aircraft has also been recently overhauled by Malayan Airways.

Asked whether Borneo Airways were contemplating buying a second aircraft for the Borneo territories, Capt. Nichols said that there was no reason for Borneo Airways to purchase another unless there is great demand for her to operate a second DC3 in these territories.

He also declined to disclose the original purchase price of the aircraft.

Borneo Airways will operate a once-weekly DC-3 service between Brunei and Bintulu providing a connection with the Twin Pioneer from Bintulu to Sibul and Kuching.

Regular flights will begin throughout the Borneo territories on Sept. 6 calling at Bintulu, Brunei, Jesselton, Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Tawau in the North.

Three air-hostesses have been engaged and trained at Labuan to serve in the aircraft and these hostesses will have their first flight in the aircraft tomorrow.

Accompanying Capt. Nichols and Capt. Russell was Mr. Yee Choi Onn, Deputy Chief Engineer and Mr. Ku Yung Cheng, an engineer who has just completed training with Malayan Airways in DC-3.

The DC-3 was today heavily loaded with an engine propeller, and other spare parts which will later be assembled in Labuan.

During their brief stop in Kuching, the officials were met by Mr. Tan Eng Kern, Manager of Borneo Airways (Kuching). They took off at 2 o'clock for Bintulu and Labuan.

## Sematan Airfield Opens

Hundreds of people from Lundu District (First Division) greeted the first arrival of a Borneo Airways Twin Pioneer aircraft at Sematan airfield in September 1958.

The aircraft was making a proving flight from Kuching to Sematan under the command of Captain T.M. Robertson, Managing Pilot of Borneo Airways.

It took off from Kuching Airport at 8.45 a.m. and landed at Sematan 25 minutes later. The journey by Chinese launch normally takes about nine hours and is often impossible to make during rough seas in the landas season.

Those who went on the proving flight were: Mr. J. Seal, Operations Officer of the Civil Aviation Department; Mr. J. McLean, Commercial Superintendent of Borneo Airways; Mr. G. Sapstead, P.W.D. Divisional Engineer, First Division; Inche Morshidi bin Osman, Deputy Information Officer; Mr. Charles Handy, Manager of the Shell Company in Kuching; Mr. Lee Kim Swee, Joint Meteorological Supervisor, Department of Civil Aviation; Mr. Andy Wheeler, of Henry Waugh Co. Ltd.; and Inche Razali, a photographer.

To greet the arrival of the Twin Pioneer were: Mr. C. Schwander, Technical Director of Sematan Bauxite Ltd.; the Acting District Officer, Lundu, Mr. Peter Tinggom; Mr. Heyworth, Mine Engineer; Mr. Stephen Leong, the Airport Manager, Kuching and Mr. Eric Lopez, the Civil Aviation Fire Officer.

The airfield construction, which was undertaken by the Department of Civil Aviation, was completed about two months ago under the supervision of Mr. Alan Cameron.

The Sematan Bauxite Company made available grader to Government without cost for one month during construction.

On arrival, Captain Roberston cleared the airfield for scheduled movements.

Negotiations are now in hand between Sematan Bauxite Ltd. and Borneo Airways for the opening of a regular chartered service between Kuching and Sematan sometime next month. It is probable that the service will be a fortnightly one in the first instance.

The airstrip is 2,300 feet long and 180 feet wide with an emergency over-run of 1,130 feet at the western end.

## PROVING FLIGHTS MADE TO LAWAS AND SIMANGGANG AIRFIELDS

Borneo Airways Twin Pioneer aircraft have made successful proving flights to the newly-completed airfields at Simanggang (Second Division) and Lawas (Fifth Division).

Both airfields were built by the Public Works Department.

The flight to Lawas took place on Saturday, September 27, 1958 under the command of Captain Roy Nicholls.

Mr. H. Dipper, Operations Officer, Labuan, (representing the Department of Civil Aviation, Sarawak) and the Divisional Engineer, Fifth Division, Mr. A.R. Compton, together with two Borneo Airways pilots went

on the flight.

After the mission was completed Captain Nicholls accepted the airfield landing surfaces and aeronautical facilities as suitable for scheduled Twin Pioneer aircraft operations.

However, due to the air temperature variant between the forest and river adjacent to the airfield, one approach to the runway requires to be improved before scheduled air operations can commence. This is expected to be carried out shortly.

"Lawas, on the extreme east coast of Sarawak, is a difficult place to get to, and an

air link with both Brunei and Labuan will be another great step in improving communications in Borneo," said Mr. J. Seal, of the Department of Civil Aviation, Sarawak.

Lawas airfield is situated about half a mile from the township.

The proving flight from Kuching to Simanggang Airfield took place on Friday under the command of Capt. T.M. Robertson, Managing Pilot of Borneo Airways.

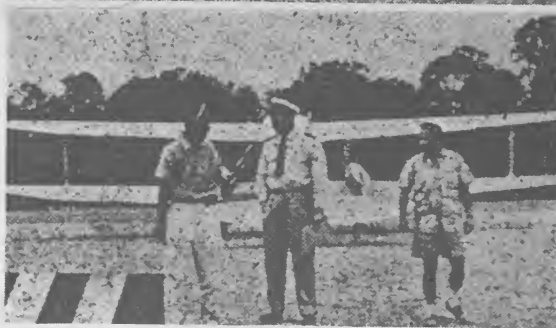
On arrival the aircraft gave a number of demonstration flights after which it flew on to Sibü.

The flight time to Simanggang was 45 minutes and from Simanggang to Sibü 45 minutes.

Those who went on the proving flight included the Director of Public Works, Mr. J.K. Wardzala, and Mr. R.B. Beattie, Acting Chief Road Engineer, P.W.D. who was chiefly responsible for the airfield project from the initial survey to its completion, Mr. H. Dipper, representing the Civil Aviation Department in Sarawak and Mr. Leong Kong Hoe, an Air Traffic Control Officer attached to Kuching Airport.

Capt. Robertson said afterwards that he considered Simanggang Airfield "satisfactory and suitable for all weather operations."

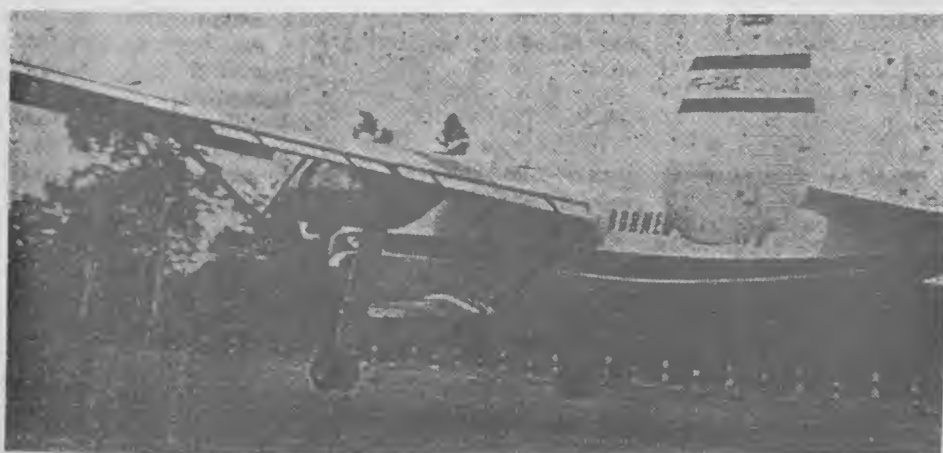
He added that Borneo Airways intended to



*These two pictures show the Borneo Airways Rapide aircraft which last week made a successful proving flight to Simanggang Airfield. The aircraft was piloted by Captain T.M. Robertson, Chief Pilot-Manager of Borneo Airways, and it flew to Simanggang from Sibü. From Simanggang it returned to Kuching. Borneo Airways Rapide in Simanggang during 23rd April, 1958.*

commence regular scheduled services in mid-October, 1958.

## Scheduled Flight To Lawas Begins



The first scheduled flight of the Borneo Airways Twin Pioneer service to Lawas took place recently.

The arrival of the aircraft was a big occasion for the people of the township who

gathered on the airfield to witness the landing.

Pictures by G.A. DUCHESNE show (top) the Twin Pioneer making perfect touchdown on the airstrip.



## Viscount On Proving Flight Supplement Services Begin Next Month

A Malayan Airways Viscount aircraft will make a proving flight to the Borneo Territories from Singapore in November, 1959.

The aircraft, which will fly along the route sectors of the proposed Viscount services, will land at Kuching on Wednesday, November 25, at 12.25 p.m.

On board the aircraft will be a number of Malayan Airways officials and Viscount crews. A passenger of special interest of Sarawak will be Miss Annie Tan of Borneo Airways, who is also a part-time announcer for Radio Sarawak. Miss Tan is expected to make a tape-recording of the flight out to Kuching.

### Night Flying

Crew night flying familiarisation flights will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Night flying is not often seen in Kuching and it will be an opportunity for members of the public to see the Viscount landing and taking off if they

position themselves on the roof of the Terminal Building during this time.

### For Brunei

The Viscount will leave Kuching at 7.30 a.m. the next day for Brunei Town and Jesselton where more demonstration flights will be made.

Viscount services will supplement the services now being operated by Malayan Airways DC-3 aircraft next month. They will provide more seating capacity, speedier and more comfortable travel.

An announcement of the schedules of operation to the Borneo Territories will shortly be made.

The Viscount will give a half-hour demonstration flight over the capital, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Forty-four Kuching residents, including Council Negri members, representatives of commerce, and government officers are being invited to go on this flight as guests of the Company.

December 16, 1959

## CPA DC-6 On Regular Service

Cathay Pacific Airways commenced the replacement of their DC4 aircraft on the Hongkong/Kuching/Hongkong service with the DC6 plane on 16 December, 1959 when the latter-type aircraft flew to Kuching Airport this afternoon.

Messrs. The Borneo Company Limited, local agents for C.P.A. were hosts at a demonstration flight to which a number of prominent members of associations, administrations and public dignitaries were in-

vited.

The demonstration flight, held to inaugurate the service, covered about an hour that took the guest passengers over Kuching town and the surrounding countryside,

In command of the plane was Capt. Smith. With a seating capacity of 58 passengers as against 48 on the DC4 the new type of aircraft gives increased speed and comfort because of the fully pressurised cabin. Flying time is reduced by thirty percent.

## C.P.A.'s D.C.6 At Kuching Airport



The first D.C. 6 aircraft of the Cathay Pacific Airways which is to be put into the Hongkong/Kuching/Hongkong service in January, landed at Kuching Airport today (see

picture) to replace for this week only, the normal DC-3 flight. It will leave tomorrow morning for Hong Kong.

## Viscount's Proving Flight Service Begins December 14, 1959

A Malayan Airways Limited Viscount aircraft this afternoon flew into Kuching Airport from Singapore on a proving flight to the Borneo Territories.

On board the aircraft were a number of Malayan Airways officials and Viscount crew, and Miss Annie Tan of Borneo Airways, who made a tape recording of the flight out to Kuching.

### Flight Over Capital

The Viscount gave a half-hour demonstration flight over the capital, commencing at 2.30 p.m. at which forty Kuching residents, including Council Negri members, representatives of commerce, and government officials were invited as guests of the Company.

The Viscount will leave Kuching at 7.30 tomorrow for Brunei Town and Jesselton where more demonstration flights will be made.

Viscount services will supplement the services now being operated by Malayan Airways DC-3 aircraft next month. They will provide more seating capacity, speedier and more comfortable travel.

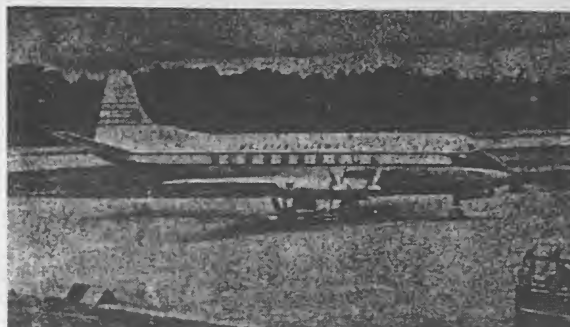
### Seating Capacity

With a seating capacity of 44 which were all filled in this demonstration flight, the aircraft under the command of Captain W. Burman, took off from Kuching Airport at 2.35 p.m. sharp.

Captain Burman is responsible for crew training of Malayan Airways pilots.

The taking off was smooth and flight altitude remained at about 2,500 feet when the plane crossed to Serian in ten minutes time. A brief circuit was made over the new Serian Simanggang Road, and after that the plane nosed up to a height of 11,000 feet at a cruising speed of 300 miles an hour.

Guests at this stage were accorded Malayan Airways hospitality and the plane flew out for a few minutes to the open sea,



*Picture shows the Viscount at the Kuching Airport terminal shortly after its arrival here from Singapore this afternoon.*

before circling back to Kuching town, flying very low to enable the passengers to have a clear view of Kuching Town.

### Smooth Landing

Then it proceeded in the direction of Kuching Airport and made an extremely smooth landing, completing the flight in just about three quarters of an hour.

The unanimous verdict of the passengers on this demonstration flight was most favourable. One of the features of improvement is the cabin window which is wide and provides the passenger with an excellent view outside. Noise has been reduced to a minimum, and while the plane may be flying at varying heights the temperature of the cabin is kept pressurised at a steady 3,500 feet.

### Flying Time Cut

After the demonstration flight, Capt. J. Brown, Chief Pilot of Malayan Airways and Mr. A.G. Beohm, Traffic Manager of Malayan Airways, Singapore, who both came in from Singapore in the morning on the plane, said that the aircraft took 1 hour and 52 minutes from Singapore to Kuching flying at the normal altitude of 17,000 feet.

The Viscount will be introduced on the regular service on December 14, and a complete timetable of the services will be issued soon.



## The First Two Years

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, left Kuching on route for England and a period of leave on Saturday, March the 22nd. The Governor has been in Sarawak for just a few days short of two years. It has been a quiet period of steady if unspectacular progress for this country, during which many of the lingering ills, suspicions and irritations of the occupation and post-war era have been swept away. Sir Anthony arrived in Sarawak new to the Far East and its problems. He arrived, only a few months after the assassination of his predecessor at the Astana, in an atmosphere which was none too pleasant. The strife and instability which then prevailed amongst nearly all the surrounding overseas neighbours of Sarawak increased considerably during 1950. There were at that time gloomy prophets in plenty who predicted that Sarawak could not for long maintain its traditional communal concord and its social and political tranquility.

We should be among the last to state that Sarawak is without her problems. She is not. There are plenty of them. It would be both pointless and untrue to maintain that some of these problems can be easily solved and it would be absurdly smug to expect Sarawak to remain uninfluenced, to some degree, by the pressure of external events. But what we will permit ourselves to believe is that, with wise administration, which is firm yet fair to all, Sarawak can and will maintain her present well-founded reputation for peace and good order, which must be the foundation on which all progress is based. The degree to which Sir Anthony Abell has so quickly won the confidence, affection and respect of the various communities in Sarawak is, to our mind, the best assurance that our belief is justified.

We consider that it is appropriate and fitting that we requote below the leading article which appeared in the Kuching English daily, "The Sarawak Tribune", on the morning of the Governor's departure.

"At 2 o'clock this afternoon, Sir Anthony Abell sails on the "Rajah Brooke" on his way to England for a few months well-earned leave. The phrase "well-earned leave" (some

would call it a platitude) is very frequently and almost automatically used these days as a mild term of courtesy when referring to everybody's leave. One could hardly say that someone had not earned his leave, and we would certainly not do so editorially. But in Sir Anthony's case we use the term advisedly. He has been with us in Sarawak now for practically two years; we know him well and like him well; we think he knows us quite well too and that his affection for the peoples of this country is both deep and genuine. Sir Anthony has travelled in parts of Sarawak which no previous Rajah or Governor has ever visited. He has never been "the recluse in the Astana". Far from it. Whenever he has found the time and the opportunity, the Governor has mingled with the public in their work and pleasures, inspecting schools, hospitals and other public institutions, attending sporting events, for which he is constantly donating and presenting cups and awards, joining in traditional festivities, whether at a Dayak or Kelabit feast in some remote longhouse, where most of us have never been, or at a dinner given by some Chinese Chamber of Commerce, or at a Malay wedding or curry party, or perhaps, and which is by no means the least enjoyable, eating Chinese food or Malay Satay at some simple restaurant or foodstall sitting next to all those ordinary people who like to see their Governor participating in their simple way of life. This newspaper is firm in its belief that no-one has yet thought out anything superior to British ideas of justice, administration and the honest control of public finance. These are virtues which any thinking man can detect and admire for himself and the days when fluttering white feathers, glittering uniforms and Guards of Honour were needed to impress are over (Thank Goodness). But the days are certainly not past when we require men of Sir Anthony's calibre, wise and modest, generous and far-sighted, without pomp or guile, who do so much to reinforce our belief in the value of the British connection and the inspiration and guidance we still need from that quarter. Sarawak is a country where British men and women of goodwill and a high sense of duty, who respect and like



their Asian friends and colleagues, are still very much in demand. It is men like Sir Anthony Abell who will keep things that way. We therefore state with conviction that our Governor has well merited his leave, we wish him bon voyage and a happy reunion with his family, and we shall look forward to his return.

During the Governor's absence, the Officer Administering the Government will be Mr. R.G. Aikman, the present Chief Secretary. Mr. R.G. Aikman, by now virtually

part of the Sarawak landscape, is known, liked and respected by all. We can be sure that, in his safe hands, the affairs of Sarawak will be well-managed, and that the traditional courtesy and consideration of the old regime will be combined with all the best aspects of the new. The O.A.G. will be assured of wide support and understanding, and we wish Mr. Aikman a happy term of office and one as free of worry as present world conditions will permit."

## Awang, George Cross

The London Gazette of November the 20th, 1951, announced the award of the George Cross to Awang anak Rawang, a 28 year old Iban from Skrang in the Second Division, for the highest gallantry whilst serving as a tracker with the Security Forces in Malaya. We are all very proud of him and very pleased that he has fully recovered from his severe wounds. We congratulate Awang on gaining this tremendous honour and we publish below the official citation followed by the text of the congratulatory telegram sent to him by His Excellency the Governor.

### CITATION

On the morning of the 27th May, 1951, 10 Pl. of "D" Coy 1st Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment were ambushed by approximately 50 bandits. No. FF/978 Awang anak Rawang (Iban Tracker) was moving behind the Section Commander of the leading section. When the ambush was sprung the leading scout was killed instantly and the Section Commander fatally wounded. Awang anak Rawang was hit through the thigh bone but the bullet passed right through the bone without shattering it. At the same time Pte Hughes, moving behind Awang anak Rawang, was hit below the knee, the bullet completely shattering the bone. Awang anak Rawang though wounded and lying exposed under heavy rifle and automatic fire, collected his own weapons and that of Pte Hughes and dragged Pte Hughes into the cover of the jungle. Awang disregarding completely his own wound in view of the impending bandit attack took up a fire position to defend

Hughes. There he remained firing on every attempt made by the bandits to approach, kill himself and Hughes and secure their arms. Due to this determined and courages conduct he successfully drove off several such attacks. Ultimately Awang was again wounded, the bullet shattering his right arm and rendering further use of his rifle or parang impossible. Despite loss of blood from his undressed wounds, he dragged himself over to Pte Hughes, took a grenade from his pouch and with his teeth pulled out the pin. He resumed his position on guard the grenade in his left arm and defied the bandits to approach. So resolute was his demeanour that the bandits who had maintained their attacks for some forty minutes withdrew leaving Awang in possession of the battle-field.

The coolness, fortitude and offensive spirit displayed by Awang anak Rawang is of the highest order. Despite being twice severely wounded, he disregarded completely his own wounds and his life, showing the utmost self-sacrifice, courage and resolution to continue the fight and protect Pte Hughes to the end.

There can be no question that by his own actions he saved the life of Pte Hughes, who required all his strength to keep a tourniquet on his shattered leg, he saved his own life and he prevented their weapons falling into bandit hands. His conduct is an example of the highest courage. The devotion to duty and disregard of his own life shown will inspire all who hear of it and is most worthy of recognition.

Telegram from His Excellency the Governor to Awang, G.C.

"I congratulate you most sincerely on the high honour which His Majesty the King has seen fit to confer on you. The George Cross is the highest decoration which is open to civilians and is awarded

only in cases of conspicuous courage and gallantry in circumstances of extreme danger. The whole country is proud of you and you have added great distinction and honour to the name of Sarawak and the Iban people."

## **Ceremony Begins At Nine Today, Tuesday, 22nd January, 1952**

### **GOVERNOR WILL PIN MEDAL ON AWANG Man Of The Day**



*Awang anak Rawang G.C.*

A ceremony that will be the first of its kind in the history of the Colony is to take place this morning at the Clock Tower, when His Excellency the Governor will pin the medal of the George Cross to Awang anak Rawang. This ceremony is timed to begin at 9 o'clock.

Preceding the actual presentation ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces, Lt. General Sir Charles Keightley, the Commissioner-General, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald and His Excellency the Governor will inspect Guard of Honour at the Pangkalan Batu.

The announcement of the award and a brief description of the significance of the George Cross will be delivered by the Governor after which an interpretation will

be made by the Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. D.C. White. The Citation will be read by the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman. The Commander-in-Chief, General Keightley will give an address after the presentation, and later Awang G.C. will be presented to His Excellency and the distinguished guests in the office of the Chief Secretary. The ceremony will be filmed by Mr. Roland Park for the "British News".

An all community Curry Lunch is to be given at the Jubilee Recreation Hall at Padungan Road by the Chief Secretary today at noon, in honour of the Commissioner-General and the Commissioner-in-Chief. The Commissioner-General, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald is expected to deliver an address at this function.



*His Excellency the Governor reading a message from High Highness the Rajah.*



*The Right Rev. the Bishop of Borneo dedicating the memorial.*

## Sarawak Remembers

The Sarawak War Memorial at Padungan, Kuching, dedicated to the memory of C.D. Le Gros Clark, Officer Administering the Government, and to all those of all races who lost their lives as a result of the enemy occupation of Sarawak during the late war, was unveiled, at a simple yet impressive ceremony, by His Excellency the Governor at 9.30 a.m. on November the 11th, 1951.

A large crowd of official guests and spectators had assembled by 9.15 a.m., including the British Resident, Brunei, the Resident, and District Officer, Miri, the General Manager and senior officials of the British Malayan Petroleum Company, Seria and many others of all races who had lost relatives and friends during the war and the occupation.

We now quote from the "Sarawak Tribune" of November the 12th.

"Union Jacks and Sarawak flags were the only decoration around the Memorial Clock Tower which was surrounded by guards of

honour formed by the Sarawak Constabulary, Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts; officials, invited guests and a large congregation made up of members of the public. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by the A.D.C. Abang Othman, arrived at 9.30 a.m., and proceeded to the base of the Memorial where His Excellency took the Royal Salute."

Before unveiling the Memorial His Excellency said: "I have received a message for you from His Highness the Rajah; it was given to me by Mr. Aplin who is representing His Highness at this morning's service of dedication. The message reads as follows: "On this solemn occasion the Ranee and I would like you to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of all those who lost their lives so courageously for Sarawak and for the cause of freedom in World War II. I would also like to express my appreciation to those who arranged this lasting memorial to those gallant men and women who will always be remembered as friends of myself and my family".



"This clock tower which I am about to unveil commemorates the men and women of every race and of every creed who gave their lives for Sarawak in the war against the Japanese. We who were spared, in humility and gratitude pay this tribute to their fortitude and sacrifice and dedicate this memorial to their undying memory. On us falls the heavy responsibility to make sure, as far as lies within our power, that their sacrifice was not in vain. We pray that future generations of Sarawak citizens will pass this place in peace and security, and staying awhile to read the inscriptions hereon, may feel something of our pride and gratitude for the heavy price that was paid for their freedom and happiness. Today we remember and honour Cyril Drummond Le Gros Clark, Officer Administering the Government, and his comrades in every walk of life who served this country and died for her".

His Excellency then pulled the string to which were attached the flags that covered the memorial and the unveiling ceremony was performed. The Bishop of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Cornwall, in dedicating the memorial to the glory of God and in honoured memory of all who lost their lives in Sarawak through the war of 1941 to 1945, offered humble thanks 'for them that have yielded their lives for the freedom of mankind'. In praying for true fellowship among men of all races so that lasting peace may be established the Bishop asked for love to be given in place of hatred; pardon where there is injury; faith, where there is distrust; hope; where there is sorrow; light, where there is darkness.



*H.E. the Governor laying his wreath.*



*Mr. R.G. Aikman, C.M.G., Chief Secretary lays a wreath on behalf of the Government of Sarawak.*



*Mr. H.D. Aplin laying a wreath on behalf of His Highness the Rajah.*

Prayers of dedication were also said by the Imam, Tuan Haji Bahaudin.

The two-minute silence was observed after the singing of the hymn 'Oh God Our Help in Ages Past', and then followed the Last Post and Reveille. His Excellency the Governor then laid a wreath of Vanda Joachim orchids at the base of the Memorial, and was followed by Mr. H.D. Aplin who laid a wreath on behalf of His Highness the Rajah, and the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman who laid a wreath on behalf of the Government of Sarawak.

His Excellency left after the singing of the Hymn 'God Save The King'. While musical selections were rendered by the Sarawak

Constabulary Band, other wreaths were placed at the Memorial. They were from: The Municipal Commissioners, The Staff of the Public Works Department; Messrs. Sarawak Steamship Co., Ltd., Staff of Lands and Surveys Department; Messrs. Mansfield and Co. Ltd., the Kuching Chinese Community, the Managing Director and Staff of Messrs. Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., The Sarawak Association; Messrs. The Borneo Co., Ltd., and Mrs. Harnack."

The Memorial was designed by Mr. E.C. Dhing, of the Public Works Department, whose brother was amongst those executed by the Japanese in company with the late Mr. Le Gros Clark.



*Padungan Road*





# KING GEORGE PASSES AWAY PEACEFULLY

## Death of King George the Sixth



His Majesty King George VI died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham House on February the 6th, 1952.

This grievous news was received with great sorrow in Sarawak, early in the evening of that day, by the people of all races. On the following morning, an unprecedented number of Union Flags were flying at half-mast all over Kuching, and Government offices and schools all over the country were closed as a mark of respect. Commercial firms and many shops also closed their premises. Flags on all public and many private buildings were flown at half-mast until sunset on the day of His late Majesty's funeral, Friday, February the 15th. This was a Day of Mourning, and all Government offices, schools and commercial firms were closed. A solemn and moving Memorial Service was held at St. Thomas's Cathedral on Friday the 15th, conducted by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Borneo, and was attended by His Excellency the Governor and a very large congregation.

On learning of the death of His Majesty, His Excellency the Governor sent the following telegram to the Secretary of State:-

"On behalf of the people of Sarawak I desire to express the profound sorrow with which we have learned of the death of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Sixth. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen, and the members of the Royal Family in their bereavement."

On February the 12th, the Secretary of State replied as follows:-

"I am commanded by the Queen to convey to you and the people of Sarawak Her Majesty's grateful thanks for your message of sympathy to herself and members of the Royal Family on the death of His late Majesty King George the Sixth."

The following telegram dated the 9th February was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:-

The Proclamation of HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND was signed at the Accession Council held on 8th February. Immediately after the signature of the Proclamation HER MAJESTY was pleased to make the following declaration:-

"By the sudden death of my dear father I am called to assume the duties and responsibilities of Sovereignty. At this time of deep sorrow it is a profound consolation to me to be assured of the sympathy which you and all my peoples feel towards me, to my mother and sister and to the other members of my family. My father was our revered and beloved head as he was of the wider family of his subjects. The grief which his loss brings is shared among us all. My heart is too full for me to say more to you today than that I shall always work as my father did throughout his reign to uphold Constitutional Government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples spread as they are all the world over. I know that in my resolve to follow his shining example of service and devotion I shall be inspired by the loyalty



and affection of those whose queen I have been called to be and by the counsel of their elected Parliaments.

I pray that God will help me to discharge worthily this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in my life."

On the 9th February, HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND was proclaimed in Kuching.

At 8.30 a.m. the Bishop, the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary, the Members of the Supreme Council, the Members of the Council Negri, the Chairman and Members of the Kuching Municipal Board, the Members of the Chinese Advisory Board, and the leading members of all the various communities assembled before the Secretariat building.

A Guard of Honour provided by the Sarawak Constabulary was assembled before the flagstaff.

At 9.00 a.m. His Excellency the Governor arrived at the Secretariat building and inspected the Guard.

At 9.05 a.m. the Governor read the following Proclamation:-

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late SOVEREIGN LORD KING GEORGE THE SIXTH of Blessed and Glorious Memory by whose Decease the Crown is solely and rightfully come to the HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCESS ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA MARY:

WE THEREFORE, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Sarawak, the Bishop, the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary, the Members of the Supreme Council, the Members of Council Negri, the Chairman and Members of the Kuching Municipal Board, the Members of the Chambers of Commerce, the Members of the Chinese Advisory Board, and the leading members of the various communities assembled therefore, do now hereby with one Voice and consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that the HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCESS ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA MARY is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of all Her Realm and

Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom Her lieges to acknowledge all Faith and constant Obedience, with hearty and humble Affection; beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless the ROYAL PRINCESS ELIZABETH THE SECOND with long and happy years to reign over us.

Given under our hands at Kuching, this Ninth day of February in the year of our Lord One Thousand nine hundred and fifty-two.

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Translations of the Proclamation were read in Malay by Inche Morshidi bin Osman, Deputy Information Officer, and in Chinese by Mr. Wee Tao Ping, Translator, Secretariat for Chinese Affairs.

The Royal Salute was given.

At 9.20 a.m. Flags on all public buildings were hoisted to the mast head and remained there until sunset.

The following telegram was despatched by His Excellency the Governor of the Secretary of State for the Colonies:-

"On the occasion of the Proclamation of Her Most Gracious Majesty ELIZABETH THE SECOND I offer to HER MAJESTY on behalf of all the people of the Colony of Sarawak our united homage and an assurance of our abiding loyalty to the Throne. We pray that HER MAJESTY may reign for many years in happiness and peace."

On the day following the death of the King, The General-Secretary of the Indian Muslim League sent the following message to His Excellency the Governor:-

"On behalf of the Indian Community, I beg to submit our heartfelt condolence which, I hope, your Excellency will be pleased to convey to the bereaved Royal Family and His Majesty's Government.

"We, the Indian Community heard of the demise of His Majesty King George VI with a paralysing sense of calamity. No words can assuage the grief that has befallen the Royal Family. We beg with all sincerity to share this great sorrow with the Royal Family."

The following letter was sent by the



Chairman of The Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Sarawak, to His Excellency the Governor:-

"The Chinese community of Sarawak hears with profound regret of the sudden death of His Majesty the King and wishes to express their deepest sympathy with Her Majesty the Queen and her family in their sad bereavement."

"We shall be grateful if you will kindly convey the following message to Her Majesty the Queen:-

"The Chinese Community of Sarawak hears with profound regret the passing away of His Majesty the King and most respectfully tenders you and your family their sympathy with you and your family in your sad bereavement. Your loss is also ours and our hearts are with you in this sad hour."

"Please also accept on behalf of the Government of Sarawak our sincere sympathy in the sad loss, in which we all share."

The President of the Malay National Union sent a letter to the Chief Secretary, asking him to convey the sympathy of the members of the Malay National Union, the Dayak Association, the Barisan Permuda of Sarawak, the Angkatan Semangat Anak Negeri Sarawak, and the Astana Bintawa Angkatan Satu, to Her Majesty and the Royal family on the sudden death of King George VI.

Expressing sympathy on behalf of the Malay Community, the Datu Bandar sent the following letter to His Excellency the Governor:-

"I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the most heartfelt sympathy of the Malay Community of Sarawak on the passing away of His Majesty the King."

"In fact we have been rejoicing on his recent recovery and hoping that he may reign over us for years to come and the sudden death of His Majesty has therefore shocked us greatly."

After her accession to the Throne, Her Majesty the Queen sent the following message to the Colonial Service:-

"I desire on my accession to the throne to express to all members of the Colonial Service my warm appreciation of the ability and devotion with which in the past they have performed their manifold and responsible duties. The splendid traditions of the service are well known to me and are rightly a source of pride to its members. I know that I can depend with confidence on their unfailing loyalty and on their continued and steadfast devotion to the well-being of the peoples whom they serve. ELIZABETH R."

## The Monarchy

We republish below the well-chosen words which were written editorially by "The Daily Telegraph" on the day following the funeral of His late Majesty King George VI. They put very simply what so many millions of simple people throughout the Commonwealth feel and understand so well.

"In one of the most famous funeral sermons in the English language, preached on the occasion of the death of KING JAMES I, JOHN DONNE observed: 'How poor, how faint, how pale, how momentary, how transitory, how empty, how frivolous, how dead things, must you necessarily think titles, and possessions, and favours, and all, when you see that Hand which was the Hand of Destiny, of the Almighty God, lie dead.'

"In the more than three centuries since these words were spoken the institution of monarchy has, like everything else, undergone many changes. Yet the same essential sentiments on which they were based will have been in many hearts as the funeral procession passed by bearing the body of KING GEORGE VI to its last resting place. A consciousness of mortality, and of the transitoriness of all things mortal, is evoked with particular force by the spectacle of a monarch being carried with proper pomp and circumstance to his grave."

"Thus, in these last rites and ceremonies connected with the KING's death, it is the spiritual, rather than the temporal, aspect which is uppermost. Monarchy as such, it is true, goes back to remote tribal origins, but as

we know it, it is intimately and inseparably associated with the Christian religion. The KING about whose death DONNE so eloquently preached, claimed, and was accorded, Divine Right. That claim was subsequently disallowed, but it remains the case that a monarch's authority derives, not from popular or other suffrage like an elected president, nor from control of an apparatus of terrorism like a totalitarian dictator's. He rules because, by virtue of his birth, he is destined to rule. He is elect, not elected; anointed as part of a religious service, not appointed by his fellows. In this sense the Throne does veritably express a transcendental, as well as an earthly, concept. It provides a bridge between time and eternity, is an outward and visible manifestation of the inward and invisible authority which governs all things."

### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **His Majesty King George VI**

Born at York Cottage, Sandringham  
December the 14th, 1895.

Married to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon  
April the 26th, 1923.

Succeeded to the Throne  
December the 11th, 1936.

Crowned at Westminster  
May the 12th, 1937.

Died at York Cottage, Sandringham  
February the 6th, 1952.

The peoples of Sarawak mourn a great King,  
the Protector of their Laws and Liberties,  
and a good man.

"The quite extraordinary expressions of popular feeling, then, in connection with KING GEORGE VI's death have not only been due to the admiration and affection in which he was rightly held by his people. They have also been due to the fact that the death of a king is itself an image of the mystery of life, the more appealing when so much that is happening in the world expresses the opposite principle — the mere mad pursuit of power or mad satisfaction of appetite. By the same token, there has been a like concern over the KING's death in the United States, where circumstances have lately tended to underline the advantages of an institution which neither lobbies nor is lobbied. Never, perhaps, before in the history of the world has the inadequacy of self-aggrandisement and self-enrichment as human motives been so dramatically exposed. The death of a king who, as an individual and by virtue of his office, partook of neither, is the more noteworthy."

"Oddly enough, that is to say, the circumstances of the Century of the Common Man are such as to present in particular relief the benefits of kingship. As we watched KING GEORGE VI's funeral procession go by, we did not to persuade ourselves that he was a superman. Nor are we under any necessity to be reassured by public opinion polls of the esteem in which he was held. That he was a good man, a brave man, an honest, truthful and conscientious man, we know and are grateful; that he was our KING was alike his and our destiny, which we salute in saluting him. He had added a noble section to the imperishable scroll of our history.

"Death, he taketh all away  
But that he cannot take."



# **Sustained By Sincerity Of His Faith: Bishop**

## **Memorial Service At Cathedral February 1952**

"The fine qualities of His late Majesty King George VI, which enabled him so magnificently to uphold and to strengthen that remarkable constitutional Monarchy which seems to thrive in our English soil and even to bear transplanting to many other parts of the world, were the finer because of the strong foundation on which they were built," said the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Borneo in his address in St. Thomas's Cathedral yesterday morning during the Memorial Service for the late King George VI.

"Some of the words which were used by Mr. Winston Churchill last Thursday night have been quoted a number of times. But one sentence which I heard in that broadcast has not been reproduced," the Bishop said. "After pointing out the strain and burden of anxiety and care which His Majesty had been called upon to bear throughout the whole of his reign he said, 'He was sustained by the sincerity of his Christian faith'; and again a little later 'He feared none but God'. You have heard and read — and you will continue for long to hear and read — of the fine qualities of His Majesty. If I do not dwell upon those qualities today it is not because I do not pay them due regard but only because they are being said by so many others who are more qualified to speak of them and can express them in much greater eloquence.

"But I do believe that all those fine qualities were the finer because of the strong foundation on which they were built; they had a lustre which would not have been there had they merely been the fruit of his own remarkable gifts and abilities. It was because of his strong faith in God — to which he bore witness both in speech and in his regular public worship — that he achieved such greatness that it was recognised and acknowledged by all alike, the rich and poor, the noble and simple, the scholar and the rustic, the commercial magnate and the farm labourer.

"On the Sunday before his death, he had attended Church as was his custom and it is worthy to note that in spite of his high position of majesty he was willing to be elected by the people of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Sandringham, to serve as Churchwarden, and in spite of the great weight of public business he made the time to carry out the duties associated with that humble office.

"In his speech he was not afraid to bear witness to that Faith which was the mainspring of his life; perhaps many of you will recall that poem which he brought to public notice by quoting on his Christmas Broadcast in 1939—words which bore noble witness to his own strong faith: 'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year. 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

"There was one other aspect to which I would call attention — one that really is the finest fruit of his Christian faith. I refer to his Home. We are all, of every nationality "home-lovers". We all recognise in our hearts the splendour and the beauty of a good home. The home which was built by the late Sovereign was an example and inspiration. There one saw married life as it should be lived, exemplified by His Majesty and by her most gracious Majesty the Queen Mother to whom we are closely knit today by the bond of affectionate sympathy and deep respect. In that lovely home the girl, now called to be our Queen, with her sister the Princess Margaret, was able to grow into that glorious womanhood which we now see in her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Such homes do not come about by chance or through mere human qualities. They are the fruit of faith in God, the Father in whom all Fatherhood is blessed; in Jesus Christ who was born into this world of the Blessed Virgin Mary and lived in his home

at Nazareth for 30 years, sanctifying for all time the Home where He is allowed to be a member of the family.

"We then today join with great multitudes of people throughout the world in offering to God our thanks for the noble life and high example of George, our late King and Governor. We remember with humble gratitude the selfless service which he has rendered to the State and to the whole Commonwealth; we remember with affectionate admiration the home which he with his lovely wife created at the summit and at the heart of the nation. And we acknowledge with reverence the foundation on which both service and home were built, his faith in God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, Almighty, All-wise, All-loving, to whom be all majesty and dominion and power

and glory henceforth and for overmore."

The lesson taken from the Revelation of St. John the Divine, Chapter 21, verses 1-7, was read by His Excellency the Governor. At the end of the service, the Band of the Sarawak Constabulary played the Funeral March, Last Post and Rouse, after which the whole congregation joined in singing "God Save the Queen".

## Kuching Observes Two-Minute Silence

Government and public offices and all shops in the bazaar were closed yesterday. As the clock struck twelve at noon buglers of the Sarawak Constabulary sounded the signal and Kuching joined with the rest of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in two minutes silent remembrance of His late Majesty King George VI.

March 26, 1953

## QUEEN MARY

By G.M. THOMSON

The old lady who has died at Marlborough House takes with her to her honoured grave a richer meed of public sorrow than is usually given to one who has never sought popularity.

Queen Mary was dignified and restrained in an age when such attributes were looked upon as "stuffy" and outmoded. The "glad hand", the glittering, but untrustworthy, smile were not for her.

She conceded little to modern manners, less to modern taste and nothing at all to modern morals. She was an intense individualist in judgement and conduct.

Yet popularity was won. Millions came to feel about Queen Mary a warmth and a pleasure which was their instinctive response to qualities of character they sensed and respected, to an example which they felt should be given.

This was a fortunate circumstance since, for a while generation, the conception of royalty was embodied by Queen Mary more than by anyone else. Her figure it was that first sprang to mind when the word "royal" was spoken. Even more than her husband or her children she became over the years the living symbol of the Crown.

### KENSINGTON, 1867

It was a strange destiny for one who, on a May midnight in 1867, was born in the room in

Kensington Palace where Queen Victoria had been born half a century earlier. In so far as royal personages can be born in obscurity, this baby was, to a minor princess and her husband. Her future grandeur could hardly have been foreseen.

A prescient reader of the new books of 1867 would, however, have reason to predict for the child a life of drastic change and novel adaptation. For he would have noticed that in Hamburg a book was published, with the title *Das Kapital*, by Karl Marx.

This publication was to put a charge of high explosive under the whole European social pyramid of which royal families formed the apex.

The baby had Queen Victoria as god-mother and was given the Christian names of Victoria Mary Augusta Louisa Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes, thus placating a host of jealous female relatives. She was the eldest and, as it turned out, the only daughter of a cousin of Queen Victoria, Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck.

The baby's father, Prince Franz, was the son of a marriage between a Wurtemberg prince and a Hungarian countess of ancient but non-royal descent.

Franz, a dashing young man, fought gallantly for the Austrian's at Solferino against the French (1859), and fought with

equal gallantry for the British against the Egyptians at Tel-el Kebir (1882). Between those two battles he had drifted to London and into a royal marriage.

## THE CHATTERBOX

The marriage was successful in every respect except financial.

The Teck household was dominated by the Duchess, who was a strong Evangelical — she had refused the hand of the King of Sardinia on religious grounds — a high Tory and an ardent theatregoer. She was unpunctual, impulsive, a chatterbox. She was moreover, extremely charitable and quite devoid of any sense of the value of money.

After 16 years of consistent overspending, the Teck suite in Kensington Palace was summarily closed. The Duchess and her young daughter, like any other embarrassed gentlewoman, went to live in second-floor rooms in a pension overlooking the Arno in Florence.

It was an experience of genteel poverty which 16 year-old Princess May (as the future Queen Mary was then called) never forgot. To it, one can reasonably trace her shrewdness and caution in money matters, the instinct to save and even to amass, which is characteristic of the children of spendthrifts.

No royal personage has ever watched her investments with more attention — and greater success — than Queen Mary. Few have gathered art collections with more assiduity or taste.

After 18 months of exile, Princess May came back to London to be launched in society from a modest house in Chester Square.

## DEAR MAY'

She was, at this time, intelligent, curious and shy. She was not in the least like her mother. Finding herself ignorant, she set about the task of self-improvement, reading widely in history, a study to which she brought her natural energy and her sense of tradition. She became in consequence a prodigious scholar in royal lore.

But she did not spend all her time in the library. Physically strong and handsome, with a superb carriage, she caught the eye in a ballroom. She caught the eye of Queen Victoria.

After a time the Royal Matriarch, despot of her vast clan of relatives and dependants, decided that it would be wise for her grandson Eddie, Duke of Clarence, to marry "dear May". He would inherit the British crown

after his father, the Prince of Wales. He should have a handsome and virtuous wife. The engagement brought joy to the old Queen's heart.

"You may not be aware as I am," she wrote to her son, "with what dislike the marriage of princesses of the royal family with small German princes were looked."

The royal italics were firm, firmer than the royal grammar. But the marriage project was destroyed by the typhoid fever which, in a few days, carried off the Duke of Clarence. It seemed that, after all, May would become the consort of some small German prince.

But Queen Victoria was not so easily defeated by events. She bowed, not without complaint, to the harsh verdict of fate: she proceeded, on the incitement of Mr. Gladstone, to arrange a new match between Princess May and the next prince in the line of succession, the jovial young naval officer who was Duke of Cornwall, and later of York.

His parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, protested vainly and, as they soon confessed, wrongly. Eighteen months separated the two engagements. Five thousand guests crowded the gardens of Marlborough House on the day before the wedding. Countesses stood on chairs to see the old Queen take tea.

The marriage was celebrated in the Chapel Royal St. James's. Queen Victoria embarrassed everybody but herself by arriving first in the church. She was delighted with the happy auguries for the future which this marriage brought.

## The steady life

"A charming girl," she wrote, "with much sense and amiability and very unfrivolous, so that I have every hope the young people will set an example of a steady, quiet life."

"No feeling," Bagehot had written in the year of Princess May's birth, "could seem more childish than the enthusiasm of the English at the marriage" (of royalty). "But no feeling could be more like common human nature. A princely marriage is a brilliant edition of a universal fact and, as such, it rivets mankind"

The new Duchess, living in hideous little York Cottage at Sandringham, rearing her growing number of children — "not a family, but a regiment," as the Duke gruffly but proudly put it — tolerantly disliking yachting and shooting parties, listening with tranquil gravity while her husband read aloud after dinner from the Greville Memoirs — the new Duchess seemed to be a model of all that a British princess and future British Queen



should be. Queen Victoria's hopes were amply fulfilled.

The York menage was, in fact, a happy one. The strongly domesticated son of a wayward father, the capable housewife brought up in an improvident home — they made a fond and admirable pair.

But was the Duchess all that a future queen should be? The question was one that a prophet, conscious of coming trends, might not have answered with the same assurance as, say, Queen Victoria.

### Tsar 'shocked'

The crust of the old society had broken. When the Tsar of Russia stayed with the future King Edward VII, he was shocked by the mixed company in which he found himself — and which the Bishop of Peterborough found "pleasant and civil but a curious mixture." It was, in its way, as much a symptom of change and decay as the presence of Keir Hardie in the House of Commons, or the Nihilist outrages in Russia.

Queen Victoria when she died in 1901 took with her to the grave an era and a style of royal existence. Her rollicking son Edward VII's edition of the kingly office possessed glitter; it was hardly a satisfactory pattern for the future.

One thing alone was certain: the old royal system must either change or decay. The book published in Hamburg in 1867 had seen to that.

### Figure-head

But Marx, preparing the overthrow of all established institutions, underrated the power of mutation and adaptation latent in some of them. So far as the British Royal system was concerned, a principal agent of change and survival was — as it turned out — the handsome Duchess of York who was Princess of Wales during Edward VII's reign and became Queen on his death in 1910.

Nations would still need symbols although they would not be content with them.

The ship of state would require a figure-head. Queen Mary would be a supremely impressive one. She had the regal presence and the histrionic gifts for the part. If the throne was to be no more than an essential emblem, Queen Mary was of the staff of which such emblems are made.

But the throne must be more, much more. Shorn of their political power and a great deal of their influence. Royalty would now be compelled to work harder than ever before.

Queen Mary had a deep and solemn belief in the Royal mystery. But, in the 20th century,

it must be translated not only into awe-inspiring pageants like the Coronation and — gaudiest Royal show of all time — the Delhi Durbar of 1911, but also into the testing routine of Royal tours of industries, exhibitions, housing schemes, hospitals, social centres. And at the end of a 10-mile-long inspection, it was necessary for the Queen to look dignified, interested, good-natured and unwearied.

### Hard Work

Being sturdy, conscientious and endowed with an unusual interest in people, Queen Mary passed the test. Some of her successors in these duties may even have regretted the Queen's powers of mental and physical endurance, which set them so exacting a standard.

But the fact remains that the busy, omnipresent consort of George V did by sheer hard work — with little help from heredity or training — give a new meaning to the office of Queen. She did so at time when, with the emergence of women as a political force, the non-constitutional office of Queen became as important as the constitutional office of King.

By her exertions she won the respect, not untouched with good humour, of the people. They felt that they knew this stately lady with the self-willed but dignified clothes.

Warmer feelings came late when age brought sufferings to Queen Mary, and suffering won for her a deeper sympathy that is given to one regarded simply as a devoted public servant.

A family on the throne is an interesting idea, as Bagehot had said. And from the triumphs and disasters of the family spring much of the devotion of the people.

The death of George V in 1936 precipitated the abdication crisis of "David," her favourite son, Edward VIII.

He had always found that "with Mama life was less severe." Now in his hour of decision he noted her "growing consternation" as she realised that "even the alternative of abdication would not deter me from my course. My mother had been schooled to put duty in the stoic Victorian sense before everything else in life."

But the old lady, brought up in a rigid tradition and an absolute society, had the humanity to understand that the artificial life to which princes — and princesses — are schooled makes exorbitant demands on natural feelings.

Almost her last words to her son, when the die had been cast were not of maternal criticism but of human sympathy — "And to me,"

she said, "the worst thing is that you won't be able to see her (Mrs. Simpson) for so long."

### **In the shadows**

These were, perhaps, the bitterest hours of her life, even if they were not the saddest. George V had died after ten years of failing health. Two sons were to die while she lived on, apparently robust, apparently indestructible. She sorrowed for them. The abdication of her first-born, the best loved, was a blow hardly easier to bear.

The still erect, ageing lady of Marlborough House may have wondered: Did not tradition and the tyrant public ask too much of its chief servants?

For a time during the reign of George VI the Queen Mother, as she had become, was able to relax in gentle shadows that enfold the dowager. She could give more time to the theatre, which her husband did not much care for — and to her special passing for collecting antiques and cataloguing them in six vast volumes. Few museum curators have ever been more knowledgeable. Few collectors have ever laid a more determined siege to sale-rooms and dealers.

When the second war came, Queen Mary

reconciled herself with difficulty to a repetition of waste and horrors which she recalled all too readily from the first. She lived for a time in the country. She applied herself with her astounding energy to embroidery, particularly the making of a famous carpet, sure of a place among the few masterpieces of art produced by royalty since the time of Nero.

She justly proud that it fetched 100,000 dollars in Canada, its artistic worth she had, probably, never doubted. In these matters her sense of values was acute.

She lived to a great age and to multiplying sorrows. They were reflected in her face but hardly at all in her carriage. In the last phase of her long life she was under no need to brood over the griefs and disappointments which life brings to queens and other women. For she had seen the torch of royalty passed on, as bright as ever, into the hands of one who was young and full of promise and hope, one in whose rearing she had played a critical part.

Having dwelt in profound reverence for the past, having reshaped its traditions during an age of violent change, Queen Mary could, at the end, look towards the future without foreboding. She could go to rest in peace, with a good conscience.

Kuching, Thursday, 26th March 1953

## **Queen Mary Dies In Sleep On 25th March 1953.**

### **Coronation Will Go On As Planned**

"Her Majesty Queen Mary, grandmother of Queen Elizabeth II died peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of this morning after an illness of four weeks. Queen Mary would have been 86 in May. Four bulletins were issued from Royal grandmother's residence at Marlborough House yesterday. They were all signed by her personal physicians. When the last bulletin was issued this morning silent crowd of more than two hundred stood outside, and men took off their hats and women wept silently. Her only daughter, the Princess Royal was with her to the end. Earlier Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret and the Duke of Windsor were at her bedside.

It is learned that, in accordance with

Queen Mary's wishes, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth will go on as planned on June 2.

### **Queen Mary**

It is with greatest distress that we hear, as we go to press, of the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Mary.

Never, perhaps, in history has there been a woman more perfectly fitted for the role she had to play. Her dignity and regal qualities were a bye-word and she has probably done more than any other person during the last half century to uphold the prestige of the British throne. She was every inch a queen.

We hope, and we do not doubt, that Her Majesty's life brought her much happiness.



But few women could have lived through a more devastating series of personal tragedies. For during her long life she lost, not only her husband, one of the greatest and most lovable of men, but also no less than three of her five sons. The renunciation of his kingly duties by her eldest and, we are often told, favourite son could have been hardly less sorrowful for her. How tragic it is that she so narrowly missed an event which would have gone such a long way towards compensating her for all these tragedies. For the coronation of our beautiful young queen will, we believe, be the greatest royal event in British history and nobody can have any doubt that the supreme qualities exhibited by her are very largely due to the training and example, both direct and indirect, of her august grandmother.

It is our belief that the British monarchy has never stood higher in the public esteem than it does to-day. The charming personality of the Queen is one good reason for this but there are others. Queen Victoria was held in higher esteem than anybody else of her time but she would have been out of date to-day. Indeed, such are the changes that have taken place that a Victorian, if he had been able to foresee the way of life of 1953, might well have thought that royalty would have no place in such a world. But nothing could have been further from the truth. To all the momentous changes that have taken place in the last 50 years the Royal Family have brilliantly adapted themselves and for this the credit must go, above all, to King George V and Queen Mary. Both were Victorians and neither lost anything of the dignity of the Victorian age. But they also created a sense of warm personal friendship between sovereign and subjects such as had never been known before. They combined the best of two ages and passed on the rich fruits of their genius and experience to their granddaughter. It would have been Queen Mary's crowning triumph to have witnessed the manifestation of the great love and respect of the people for her granddaughter which we shall see at the Coronation celebrations.

Let us hope that the old Queen's wishes will be respected and that we shall do all we can to make the Coronation of the young Queen the happiest and most joyous occasion in our history.



*The charming snapshot taken in Kew Garden in 1939 was one of Queen Mary's favourite photograph of herself.*

## Message Of Condolence

Flags were flown at half mast over Government Offices and public buildings in Kuching yesterday when news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Mary was received.

The following telegram has been sent by His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request that the message be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen.

"On behalf of the people of Sarawak I desire to express the deep grief with which we have learnt of the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary. We offer our deepest sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and to the members of the Royal Family in their bereavement."

The telegram has been sent by His Highness the Sultan of Brunei to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a request that the message be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen.



# One Hundred Years Of Progress 1854-1953

## Kwong Wai Siew Association

### Celebrates Centenary



*A performance of the traditional lion dance and a display of the Chinese Art of self defence at the Kwong Wai Siew Association, Carpenter Street in 18/1/1953.*

The Kwong Wai Siew Association at Carpenter Street, Kuching, on 18th February 1953 celebrates its centenary anniversary, and a reception commencing at 2 o'clock is being held today in the premises of the Association to mark the auspicious occasion.

A brief outline of the history of the Association is given in the Centenary Magazine which the Association is publishing as part of the centenary celebrations.

The Association was first formed in 1854 during the reign of Sir James Brooke. The

country of Sarawak was being opened up fast. Among the Chinese pioneers who came to this country to work and trade were many people from "Kwong Foo", "Wai Chow", and "Siew Heng", which are three of the neighbouring provinces in China. Being so far away from home most of the migrants were without friends and relations. It was then decided to form an Association (with a name derived from the first name of the three provinces mentioned), with the object of bringing these people closer together for friendship, mutual assistance and the



*Late Mr. Tung Koong Sook*



*The Kwong Wai Siew Association building.*

exchange of knowledge.

A Mr. Lau Lit of Chop Kwong Swee Sang, another Mr. Lau and several others were the founders. They decided to acquire a building to serve as an Association and chose "Kwan Ti" as their god of worship, denoting faithfulness and friendship. The Association then, was more familiar to the local inhabitants as "Kwan Ti" temple, though a signboard with the name of the Association "Kwong Wai Siew" was hung over the doorway. The Association was not required to register by the Government at that time.

During the Spring and Autumn festivals, which were the two important festivals of the year, all the members had an opportunity of meeting each other. It was customary for them to visit the graveyard first and then adjourned to the Association for the feast. These functions were always well attended and afforded an opportunity for the other members to help the aged and those who were sick and without means of support. These were allowed to stay in the Association.

The second stage of the history of the Association began when Sir Charles Brooke succeeded to the Raja of Sarawak. The country was going through a period of quick development. There was an increase in trade, communications had improved and more buildings were put up. More Chinese migrated to this country, with the result that the members of the Association correspondingly increased. During the festival days it was found that the association was too small to accommodate such a large gathering.

The Kwong Wai Siew Chinese did well in all branches of business in that period. Companies were formed in China to operate in Sarawak. One such as the "Kwong Toong Agricultural Company" organised by one Mr. Tung Koong Sook, a Chinese titled scholar who first came to Kuching and then proceeded to the Upper part of Sibu to begin operations. Even now that part of the country has the name "Kwong Toong" attached to it.

With these conditions in view, it was deemed necessary to extend the Association premises in order to accommodate the ever increasing number of members. It was therefore decided to add another storey to the

building (see pictorial supplement), the cost of construction to be borne from subscriptions. All billian timber required for the purpose was generously contributed by Mr. Yew Ping of Tatau. The construction was soon completed, resulting in the impressive building which is seen today.

The third period of the Association's history commenced with the question of education. Not only were members bringing their families over, but a great many children were born in this country. It was decided therefore to form a school to educate the young. In 1915 the 'Yik Kwan' School was formed. To make way for the classrooms, the aged and infirmed were moved from the Association to No. 22, Rock Road, Kuching, which was purchased as the Branch Association. The main Association was entirely given over for the use of the school. This stopped functioning when the Japanese occupied Sarawak.

The Association continued to prosper. Further properties were purchased from the profits accrued. The balance of any cash in hand was used for charity and social welfare purposes. Contributions were also made to the China Relief Fund for flood, famine and war. Close relation was also established by the Association with the motherland and other countries. In this country all members of the Association have proved that they are willing to cooperate with the Government and are peace-loving and law-abiding.

At the conclusion of the Second World War in 1945 when the Allied troops reoccupied Sarawak the Association was reorganised. New rules and regulations were made and the Association registered itself with the Government as "The Kwong Wai Siew Association." This completes the third and final period of the history of the Association until the present time.





## Centenary Anniversary Lion Dance then crackers follow



*Mr. Lee Wing Thoong*



floor of the building where tall and large candles burned brightly in front of the image of the deity "Kwang Ti", the patron god of the Association depicting faithfulness and friendship.

In the afternoon there was the performance of a Lion Dance which was witnessed by the large number of guests.

The building was brightly illuminated with fairy lights in the evening, creating a very vivid impression to all passers-by. Then at eight o'clock in the evening there burst out, perhaps the longest period of cracker-firing in the Association's history. It was a dual celebration — for the Centenary anniversary and also for the Guan Siow Night. Apart from the fund allotted by the Association for the purchase of crackers, each member, according to reports, subscribed a dollar towards the purchase of extra crackers for the evening.

More than five hundred guests including the Chief Secretary and Mrs. R.G. Aikman were received by the President of the Kwong Wai Siew Association, Mr. Lee Wing Thoong last Saturday in the premises of the Association on the occasion of its centenary anniversary. The reception, which was given to mark the occasion, was held in the second



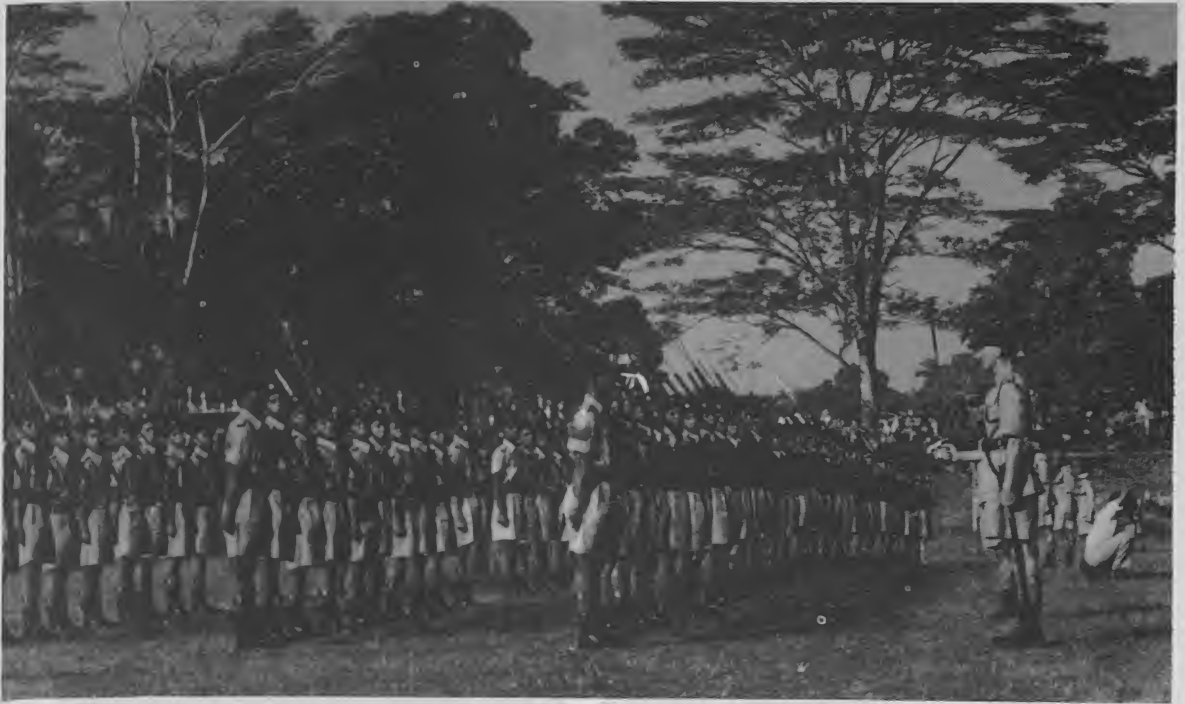
## Official Celebration Of The Birthday Of Queen Elizabeth II In 1952

### O.A.G. Takes The Salute At The March Post

The first official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen was celebrated in Kuching on June the 5th in very fine style. It is quite accurate to say that the birthday of the Sovereign has never previously been celebrated in Sarawak with such universal manifestations of pleasure and loyalty. It may be said with some truth that, after a short six years direct connection with the British Royal Family, Sarawak is only just beginning to know and to value the link with a Monarch who stands

above politics and yet who is the main Protector of our Laws and Liberties. But we feel there is more to it than that. The spectacle of a young Queen so constantly and faithfully carrying out her heavy constitutional duties, at a time when so many other Heads of States have failed in this prime responsibility, has clearly inspired in the people of Sarawak a feeling of warmth and understanding towards the Throne which they may well not have experienced before. But whatever the causes,





the effects were splendid.

The Ceremonial Parade in the early morning, at which His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. R.G. Aikman, C.M.G., took the Salute, was the most impressive and efficiently conducted thus far seen in Kuching. During the morning, over three thousand school-children attended free cinema shows in Kuching, and during the afternoon there was a football and a basketball match. The winning teams were presented with "Queen's Cups", generously donated by the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce. In the evening, His Excellency and Mrs. Aikman received three hundred guests on the lawns of a beautifully illuminated Astana, for which occasion the weather remained cool and fair. The Town and Kampongs were floodlighted or illuminated by thousands of tiny oil lamps, and the Dragon, Wayang and Torchlight processions which followed, organised and paid for by the specially formed All-Community Queen's Birthday Celebration Committee, were magnificent. It took nearly an hour for the processions to pass Pangkalan Batu to the wild and amiable crescendo of exploding fire-crackers.

We feel it appropriate here to reproduce the words which His Excellency wrote in a letter to the All-Community Celebration Committee on the following day:-

"The flood-lighting and decorating of buildings were very attractive and the procession which passed through the town was excellent and a real credit to those responsible, who must have put in a great deal of hard work.

I was much impressed with the excellent and splendid show by everybody, and the tasteful way in which the various floats and lanterns had been prepared.

I should also like to mention the Malay Kampongs which were most attractively decorated and it was remarkable how even the humblest of homes contributed its quota of lights to the gaiety of the occasion.

I should be most grateful if you would convey my sincere appreciation of the splendid efforts made by all communities in Kuching to make Thursday, June the 5th, 1952, such a memorable occasion in the annals of this Country."

We have no doubt that the occasion was greatly enjoyed by the unprecedented thousands of spectators not only on account of the external effects but appreciated and remembered for the significance of the day itself.





*Chief Inspector Stephen Harry*



*Mr. Herbert Earnshaw*

After the inspection of the Parade, the Birthday Honours which have been bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen was announced by the Acting Chief Secretary:-

Honourary Member of the most Excellent  
Order of the British Empire Pengiran Abu  
Baker bin Pengiran Omar.

His Excellency then presented the insignia of the O.B.Y. to Herbert Earnshaw who was supported by Mr. J.P. Bronwell

O.B.Y. and Mr. M.G. Dickson.

The Colonial Police Medal was then presented by His Excellency to Chief Inspector Stephen Harry.

Three cheers were given to Her Majesty the Queen led by His Excellency. Later that day three Royal Air Force Brigands which came over from Singapore, staged a fly past over the town and landed at Kuching airport. They left their home base in the afternoon.

# Pelawat Deraja dan

Sebagai sa-orang wakil pihak Melayu di dalam satu jawatankuasa yang telah ditubuhkan kerana menyambut Lawatan Deraja ka-bandar Kuching, maka penulis berasa suka menchatitkan dengan ringkas-nya atas ambutan dari orang Melayu di-kampong2 kapada Yang Teramat Mulia Duchess of Kent dan putera-nya Duke of Kent.

Dua minggu sebelum Pelawat Deraja itu tiba, di-rumah Tua2 kampong sangat sibok rupa-nya masing2 mengadakan meshuarat dan sa-terus-nya melantek badan ontok membuat alat keramian bagi menyambut akan ketibaan Pelawat Deraja itu.

Apakala sa-minggu lagi tiba-nya hari yang ber-bahagia itu, penduduk2 kampung lelaki mahu pun perempuan sudah sibok mengambil bahagian dengan pekerjaan masing2.

Hari ketibaan Pelawat Deraja telah sampai ia-iatu pada 14 haribulan October, 1952, dan pada hari itu pula telah siap 22 pintu gerbang dengan tulisan "Selamat Datang Kapada Yang Teramat Mulia Duchess of Kent dan Duke of Kent". Pintu2 gerbang itu didirikan sa-panjang kampong2 di-Datus Road, Green Road, Satok Road dan Palm Road dengan perhiasan yang istimewa berselang2 diantara satu2 pintu gerbang itu dan di-sedia pula dengan lampo2 electric dan minyak ontok di-gunakan pada malam-nya. Orang Melayu di-kampong2 seberang tidak pula ketinggalan sibok-nya mengambil bahagian menghiasi perahu2 mereka dengan bendera2, bunyian2 dan-sa-bagai-nya. Penulis berasa puas hati melihat ada-nya kerjasma yang luar biada dan boleh di-katakan belum pernah di-buat oleh penduduk2 kampong pada masa yang telah lalu. Sungguh meriah dan berbahagia-nya sambutan kapada Pelawat Deraja itu.

Pada pagi hari 15 haribulan October, 1952, ia-iatu sebelum Pelawat Deraja dan rombongan-nya melawat di-kampong2, penulis telah melihat penduduk2 kampong lelaki perempuan, besar kechil telah siap sedia berjejer dari pintu gerbang masing2 hingga ka-pintu gerbang yang lain dengan pakaian kebangsaan dan berselang2 membawa bendera Un-

ion Jack dan Sarawak. Apabila sampai masanya ia-itu kira2 pada jam 9.30, motor car kenaikan Yang Teramat Mulia Duchess of Kent bersama dengan Tuan Yang Terutama Governor Sarawak serta motor car rombongan-nya pun masok ka-kampung melalui pintu gerbang Persatuan Kebangsaan Melayu Sarawak dan di-sambut pula oleh pintu gerbang Kampong Masjid dan saterusnya. Riuh rendah suara orang2 yang berjejer di-sa-panjang jalan raya dengan mengatakan "Selamat Datang" dan melambai2 dengan bendera2 dan demikian-lah saterusnya sa-hingga tamat perjalanan Deraja dan rombongan-nya melalui kampong2.

Dalam perjalanan Pelawat Deraja tadi, Tua2 Kampong serta anak2 buah-nya sangat tertarek hati melihat Yang Teramat Mulia Duchess of Kent dengan muka yang tersenyum dan melambai2 kan tangan-nya, tambahan pula Yang Teramat Mulia itu terkadang sudi turun dari motor keinderaan-nya kerana berjabat tangan dengan Tua2 Kampong dan memuji2 kan pintu gerbang mereka.

Sa-kali lagi Tua2 Kampong dan anak2 buah-nia berasa gembira apabila dapat khabar Yang Teramat Mulia serta putera-nya akan melawat kampong pada malam 16 October. Sunggoh pun perkhabaran itu diterima dengan masa yang pendek tetapi pekerja an mengator lampo2 dan pelita dengan sa-berapa segera dapat di-siap-kan sehingga terang benderang di-dalam kampong berlebeh2 daripada malam Hari Raya biasa. Dalam masa Pelawat Deraja dan rombongan-nya berjalan pada malam itu tidak kurang sambutan penduduk2 kampong daripada Lawatan Deraja pada siang 15 October dan Yang Teramat Mulia dan putera-nya tidak pula melupakan senyuman dan dermawan mereka menyambutkan kehormatan yang diberi oleh penduduk2 kampong.

Lawatan Deraja itu tentu-lah menjadi ingatan mereka sa-panjang2 masa dan begitujua sa-balek-nya di-h arap sambutan dan keraian yang telah di-pertunjokkan oleh penduduk kampong2 itu tidak akan di-lupa oleh kedua2 Pelawat Deraja itu.

[The following is a free translation of the above:-

*The welcome given to the Royal Visitors by the People of the Kuching Kampungs.*

As a Malay representative on the Reception Committee set up in connection with the Royal Visit to Kuching, the writer has pleasure in recording in brief the welcome given by the Malays in the Kampungs to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and her son His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

A fortnight before the arrival of the Royal Visitors, there had been a buzz of activity in the homes of the Kampung headmen. Meetings were held and workers appointed to put up decorations which would give a fitting welcome to the Royal Visitors.

And so a week before the happy day, everybody was hard at it doing his or her share of the work.

Then came the 14th October, the day of the arrival of the Royal Visitors; and by that time 22 arches were ready, displaying the words, "Welcome to their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Kent". These arches were erected throughout the Kampungs in Datus' Road, Green Road, Satok Road and Palm Road, and special decorations, provided with electric and oil lamps for illuminations at night, were arranged in between the arches. The Malays residing across the river were not to be left out of the proceedings and decorated their boats with bunting and joined in the welcome with music. It gave the writer great pleasure to see the extraordinary co-operation, which surpassed any thing done in this way by the Kampung people in the past. The welcome to the Royal Visitors was indeed happy and joyous.

On the morning of 15th October, before Her Royal Highness and party reached the Kampungs, the writer saw the Kampung peo-

ple of both sexes, young and old, ready on the sides of the roads in long lines between all the arches. They were wearing their national costumes and holding both Union Jacks and Sarawak flags. At about 9.30 a.m., the motor-car carrying Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent together with His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, followed by cars with the rest of the party, entered the Kampungs passing first the arch of the Malay National Union of Sarawak and then the arch of the Mosque Kampung, and so on. Along the roads, the people tumultuously shouted, "Welcome", and waved their flags and so it was throughout until the Royal tour passed the end of the Kampungs.

During the tour, the Kampung headmen and their people were simply captivated by the Duchess of Kent, who smiled and waved to them. She also added to their pleasure by alighting from the car at times in order to shake hands with the Kampung headmen and to praise their decorated arches.

Then once again the Kampung headmen and the people were roused to excitement when they learned that the Duchess and her son were to visit the Kampungs on the night of 16th October. Although the message was received at short notice, the work of arranging electric and oil illuminations was completed in no time; and, thus lit up, the kampungs looked even brighter than on Hari Raya nights of the past. During this night tour by the Royal Visitors and party, the reception given by the Kampung people was no less than that given on the previous day; and the Duchess and her son did not forget their smiles and show that they appreciated the homage of the Kampung people.

The Royal Visit will remain in the memory of the people for all time. And it is sincerely hoped that the welcome spontaneously given by the Kampung people will never be forgotten by our two Royal Visitors.]





ASTANA,  
KUCHING.  
16th October, 1952.

DEAR TUAN HAJI,

I have been asked by the Duchess of Kent to thank you and, through you, the people of your kampung for the pains which they took to decorate the kampung and to appear in person during the drive around Kuching undertaken by Her Royal Highness yesterday.

I can assure you that Her Royal Highness was very pleased with all she saw in your kampungs, and very much appreciates your efforts.

Your sincerely,  
PHILIP HAY,  
*Private Secretary*

## Royal Appreciation

Before leaving Kuching Her Royal Highness wrote to quite a number of people expressing her appreciation of the work done by the various sections of the community in preparing such a grand welcome. For example the following letter was sent to Tua Kampung Haji Bakri:-

Tua Kampong HAJI BAKRI,  
Kampong Bintangor,  
KUCHING.

In a letter received by the President of the Malay National Union, Abang Haji Zainie, the Private Secretary to Her Royal Highness, Mr. Philip Hay, wrote: "The Duchess of Kent asked me to write to you and to say how very pleased she was to see you participate in the decorations in the Kampung in celebration of her visit to Sarawak.

"Her Royal Highness noted with great satisfaction that the Malay National Union had taken the trouble to erect an arch in Datu's Road."

In another letter to Mr. Kueh Siak Hong of Messrs. Swee Huat Seng Store, Padungan Road, Mr. Hay writes: "The Duchess of Kent has asked me to write to you to say how much she appreciated the very substantial amount of work which you and the members of your Committee have put up in the erection of your wonderful arch over the road at Padungan. It gave Her Royal Highness the greatest pleasure to be able to leave her car during the course of her tour of Kuching and to inspect the arch at close range, and to greet you and those who have been working with you in this task."

"Her Royal Highness is delighted to hear that your section has been awarded the First Prize for the best decorated arch in the town of Kuching".

# Decoration In The Malay Kampungs Kuching



*The arch which was awarded first prize.*



*The arch was awarded second prize.*



*A special prize was awarded for this arch.*



*The arch in Kampung No. 5.*

**All Photographs by Abg. Khaider**

# You Have Put Up A Great Show: I Am Proud Of You: Governor Says

## Malay Community Receive Prizes



*After the presentation of awards. Above (left to right): Mr. Jally Hassan, the Chief Secretary Mr. R.G. Aikman, His Excellency the Governor, T.K. Hassan of Kampong No. 4, Mr. Dahan Ahmad.*

"His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell last Monday afternoon, despite the wet weather went to Merpati Jepang School, Jalan Pattingi Ali, to present awards to the winners of the best decorated archway and best decorations in the Malay Kampongs during the visit of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent last October. His Excellency was accompanied by the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman.

It was raining when the Governor and the Chief Secretary arrived at the School. The Governor was met by Mr. Sandbach on the roadside and the party with umbrellas above their heads walked to the hall on the first floor of the school. The School Scouts gave a salute when His Excellency and party stepped into the hall. His Excellency and the Chief Secretary then shook hands with some of the

leaders of the Malay community present. The Head Master of the School was then introduced to His Excellency.

His Excellency addressing the people of the Malay Kampongs said that he was very grateful for going there to give away the prizes to the winners. He also said that he was grateful to the Head Master of the School for making available the school premises for the occasion.

His Excellency said he was sorry to see in a Malay newspaper that the government was accused of an act of discrimination against the Malay people. He assured the people that "there was no possibility of discrimination by government against the Malay people". He said during the presentation of awards at Padungan he mentioned he would like to hold



the ceremony on the same day but for the fact that the Malay people wanted to choose their own prizes and that he had to postpone the day of presentation until the prizes arrived from England. However, he said he admired the people's good sense of value in choosing the prizes.

Recalling the tour round the Kampongs His Excellency said, 'I shall never forget motoring around the Kampong on the day with Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

"It was a moving experience for me too since I have been here to see such a colourful scene." The Duchess said to me, 'I do with my son to see this' and she asked, 'is it possible to motor round in the evening when the lights are on?' It was in fact what we did and she said, 'it is like a fairy land' and indeed it was what it looked like."

His Excellency said he knew of the hard work involved in decorating the Kampongs. But he said, "it is not a question of money, hard labour and so on. It is a question of a whole family, a community getting together, determined to show what they could do and it may surprise even some of you what great success can be achieved when all get together. I know in that decoration you expressed a feeling of pride; Pride of being a member of this community in Sarawak, Pride of being members of a particular Kampong or family." He said that a member of the staff of Her Royal Highness told him that the people of Kuching had given her the most colourful visit during the tour of Southeast Asia.

His Excellency then congratulated the winners of the prizes and committee members for the great show they had put up. He continued, "I ask you that during the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen next

Spring you will serve again. Let us see that the Malay community can do better than last time. Let us see you put on a show in the Kampongs so that none of your children can forget."

He said that travellers who visited Kuching at that time said they never saw such pleasure, gaiety and loyalty of the people here. He said he had sent a set of photographs to the Rajah to show how the Malay people supported the Royal tour, and he said "I am proud of you and proud of being a member of this community.

Lastly he thanked all the people for the wonderful welcome they had shown to Her Royal Highness during the tour.

After the Governor's address Mr. Sandbach opened up the prizes for His Excellency to see.

The Governor then presented the prizes to Tua Kampong Hassan of Kampong No. 4 for the best decorated Kampong; to Mr. Dahan Ahmad, on behalf of M.B.H.T., for the second best decorated Kampong at Kpgs. Masjid, Bintangor, Jalan Haji Taha, and lastly to Mr. Jally Hassan for the best decorated Archway at Jalan Muda Hashim.

After the presentation a young Malay, Kushairy bin Abdullah speaking on behalf of Tua Kampong Hassan thanked His Excellency for giving away the prizes. He said the ceremony would long be remembered by the Kampong people. Mr. Mohamad Din bin Musa of the Education Office speaking on behalf of M.B.H.T. and Kampong Muda Hashim, also thanked His Excellency for the occasion. He said that the prizes would be kept as a treasured memento and he also said that the people "shall never forget this historical visit of the Royal party."



Photograph by Atlas & Son

*The Padungan arch which was awarded the first prize in Kuching Town.*

## 皇族蒞臨話牌樓

英國皇族肯特公爵夫人暨小肯特公爵，十月十四日蒞臨古晉之際，自浮羅岸起，迄政府大鐘樓止，夾道歡迎的民衆，不下數萬名，這種騰歡熱烈的氣象，為砂朥越百年紀念以來所僅見。夫人此次東來，不憚跋涉之煩，不畏舟車之勞，毅然作萬里之旅行，來巡視大英帝國在東南亞之屬地，這種精神，實不能不令人肅然起敬。而且夫人莊嫺和藹，儀態萬方，各民族佇觀皇族豐采後，一種恭順和忠誠的赤忱，不能不油然而生，我以為皇族此來，人民所共獻的最大禮物，並不是物質，而却是精神。

十四日為皇族蒞臨的第一天，古晉市民，為了表示衷誠的歡迎起見，曾於市區建築五座牌樓，而馬來甘榜，亦另有點綴，整個古晉市都浴在狂歡中，當夜色朦朧華燈初上時，埠中各處，火樹銀花，照耀得有如白日，街道上車水馬龍，肩摩轂擊，在彼此的交談中，都好像是以牌樓為中心，因此我亦順便向市中所搭的五座牌樓作了一個巡禮。

## The Tour of the Arches

[The above account of the "Tour of the Arches" was written by the Secretary of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Kuching. The following is a free translation:-

### The Tour of the Arches by Royalty

On the arrival of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and her son the young Duke of Kent on the 14th October, 1952, tens of thousands of people of all races lined both sides of the streets from Padungan to the Government Clock Tower to extend a warm and loyal welcome to the Royal Visitors who had come to visit Sarawak.

The festive atmosphere of the occasion was evident and the sight was indeed a rare one. The last comparable occasion was that during the celebrations of the Centenary of Brooke Rule of Sarawak.

Her Royal Highness's spirit of endurance in her travels to the British Colonies in the East and her approachability have earned the admiration and respect of all the people.



## 浮羅岸牌樓——華貴富麗

浮羅岸牌樓，完全是西洋式，它有兩個拱門、中部的上端，嵌有大英國徽和女皇玉照，拱門之上飾有肯特公爵夫人和小肯特公爵肖像，拱門中柱乃建於圓形的草地上，裏面有花有草，宛然是一個小園地，在牌樓上空，有兩架小型灰銀色飛機，每機有四個螺旋槳，在空中旋轉不息，遠望之猶如真機然，這座牌樓不但華貴，而且富麗，特別是女皇玉照和大英國徽，繪製得異常出色，據云這座牌樓，是該區籌備主任郭錫達氏所設計者，其佈置之幽雅，色澤之鮮艷，都已洽到好處，經過評判後，它已獲得首獎。

## 馬吉街牌樓——莊嚴堂皇

這座牌樓，搭在馬吉街，下層有四個中國蟠龍柱，上部則為層疊式，它的好處是穆肅莊嚴中帶有瑰麗成分，東方藝術中滲着西洋意味，白天觀之，不見如何出色，入夜以後，則火樹銀花，光耀奪目，電燈之數，已達五六百盞，富麗堂皇之態，由此可見。

## 甘蜜街牌樓——古香古色

新巴殺牌樓，純然是中國式，簷牙高啄，碧瓦顯然，這個古色古香的牌樓，也另有一種風緻，這牌樓飾有兩味微妙的花，入夜後，花心燦爛發光，使該花艷麗無比，柱上貼一聯，聯曰：「夫人多勞，涉水跋山宣聖德；坡眾有幸，張燈結綵表微忱」。聯句工整，書法勁秀，為該牌樓生色不少。

## 老巴殺牌樓——雄偉生動

商會門前的牌樓，是雄偉生動，牌高三丈餘，柱凡十六個，全部配以青草鮮花，使人頓覺生氣勃勃，青翠盎然，尤其是那一缸金魚。兩籃鮮花，博得觀眾不少的贊賞，其他的盆栽，為數亦不少，此區為古晉著名花卉種植家許應勤先生所主持，因此鮮花特別多。

## 大石路牌樓——渾樸幽雅

大石路牌樓的結構，一如中國的牌坊，橫樑上樹立大英國徽，旁柱上飾帝國國旗，它雖然軍（水旁）樸，倒也相當幽雅，另具一格。

總之各牌樓均有其特點，有的富麗，有的堂皇，有的古雅，有的生動，有的軍（水旁）樸，爭奇鬥巧，各有千秋。

The beautiful gifts presented to her should not be valued in money but should be regarded more as a token of the peoples' loyal and sincere welcome.

The 14th day of October, 1952, was the first day of the Royal visit. The people of Kuching, in order to give a cordial welcome, had erected five arches in the Town. There were also decorations and illuminations in the Malay Kampungs. The occasion was observed as a great festival day by the whole of Kuching Town. After dusk, the town was fittingly illuminated; trees being ablaze with fairy lights in the form of silvery flowers. Traffic in the streets was dense. The crowds were merrily wending their way towards the five majestic and beautiful arches which appeared to be the centre of attraction.

A brief description of the arches as seen by me is given below:-

### (1) The Arch of Padungan (The Pompous and Noble)

The Padungan arch was Western in motif. A portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, flanked by Union Jacks, was mounted above the centre of the arch. Portraits of both Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent were mounted above the entrances of the arch. The centre pillar that supported the arch was erected on a grass circular plot within which beautiful flowers and orchids were exhibited as if in a small park. Hanging above the arch were two small model aeroplanes with four propellers whirling unceasingly, and at a distance these planes seemed as though real. The arch was not only majestic in appearance but also was well designed and beautiful. The most outstanding features were the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Arms which were skilfully made. The arch was designed by the Chairman of the Decoration Sub-Committee of that section of the town. The careful design and excellent construction work done earned the prize awarded for the best decorated arch in the Town of Kuching.

### (2) The Arch at Market Street (The Majestic and Full of Splendour)

This arch was supported by four pillars painted with Chinese dragons, and was very attractive. It was the result of skilful blending of Western and Eastern arts, and its beauty was heightened at night by the colourful



illuminations. The number of electric lights used for decoration was in the region of five or six hundred.

(3) *The Arch at Gambier Road (The Ancient Fragrance and Ancient Beauty)*

The arch at Gambier Road was in ancient Chinese style; with typical Chinese roof and tiles. There were two pots of beautiful flowers in blossom, adding freshness and beauty to the scene. The pillars of the arch were decorated with distiches reading thus:-

"Her Royal Highness despite hardships of travelling by sea and across mountains on a good will mission for the benefit of the fortunate citizens. Decorating lights and evergreen mark our welcome and respect."

These suitably worded distiches were written in flourishing characters, making the arch most attractive.

(4) *The Arch at Main Bazaar (The Gigantic and Lively)*

This arch, erected in front of the Chinese

Chamber of Commerce, was a large one and was lively in appearance. It was some 30 feet in height and was supported by 16 pillars. The whole arch was decorated with evergreen and beautiful flowers. It gave one an impression of the beauties of nature, especially the live gold fish in a glass jar and the two basketfuls of flowers. The erection and decoration were under the supervision of a well-known member of the Floricultural Society, hence this arch was the one with the most beautiful real flowers.

(5) *The Rock Road Arch (The Plain, Simple and Impressive)*

The arch at Rock Road was designed in the Chinese style. The Royal Crest in the centre was flanked by Union Jacks. Although it was simple in design it was very impressive.

It will thus be seen that every arch had its prominent features. The beauty in some was unique, some were majestic, some portrayed ancient art and some were simple but striking.]

## Teach Your Children The Pride And Love Of Your Town. See That You Stick To This High Standard: Governor



His Excellency with chairman of the five bazaar committees who arranged the decorations in Kuching Town. The Chinese scrolls were presented by His Excellency. The general committee responsible for decorating the whole of Kuching are standing behind.

A call to the people of Kuching to preserve that pride and love of their town and to teach this to their children was made by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell when he addressed a gathering at Padungan on Saturday morning.

The occasion was the presentation of awards by the Governor to the Chairman of each Bazaar section in token of their efforts in decorating the town in honour of the visit of the Duchess and the Duke of Kent. The presentation was held under the Arch at the far end of Padungan Road, which was erected by the people of that section and which has been judged as the most effective of the arches in the bazaar area by a panel of judges.

His Excellency the Governor was accompanied by the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman and attended by the A.D.C., Mr. Baker. The Governor on arrival was received by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Mr. T.P. Cromwell, Mr. C.E. Sandbach of the Kuching Municipality and Mr. D.J. Chandler of the General Reception Committee.

His Excellency was then introduced individually to all members of the various bazaar sections who were present and who comprised Chinese, Europeans, Malays and Indians.

Expressing appreciation of the work which had been accomplished, Sir Anthony said: "Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent has asked me to convey to you, the town people of Kuching, her deep appreciation of the warm welcome you have given her and her admiration of the arches decorated in Kuching."

"A lot of quick planning and hard work has been necessary to erect these arches at the limited time at your disposal, and I would like to congratulate you in the excellent way you have done. I have been particularly impressed here and so was Her Royal Highness, with this clear sign of co-operation among the people of Kuching."

"It is not only the arches but the more humble shophouse and kampong house, and kampong houses which have been repainted and decorated by people who may not be very wealthy."

"I think the incentive was your pleasure at Her Royal Highness's visit, and you wanted to express in a way in which she can see your feeling of pleasure and welcome. I hope and believe there was even a deeper feeling that was a pride and love of your town — something that will last and something you will teach your children, and I am sure therefore that your civic efforts in Kuching will not stop at this point."

"By your hard work you have proved this city can look bright and beautiful. We cannot have and indeed we do not want arches all the time, but we must have a clean and bright town and well dressed citizens. Your committee members have set your people a high standard; see to it they stick to this standard because it improves the condition and health of the town."

"We have many travellers passing through Kuching, and we want them to say as Her Royal Highness said that this is one of the most beautiful town she had seen in her travels."

"Next year as you knew there is another important event to take place — the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. I hope that you people will serve again: as you have done this time and give a lead in the decoration of the town. Again I congratulate you all on your achievements and with great pleasure will present the trophies to the street sections."

The trophies consisting of a coloured silk scroll and a Certificate for each section was then presented by the Governor to the following chairman of each section in order of merit: — Mr. Kuek Siak Fong of the Padungan section; Mr. T.Y. Tan of the Market Street section; Mr. Gan Swee Cho of the Gambier Road section Mr. Tan Kui Choon of the Rock Road section and Mr. Kho Eng Khng of the Main Bazaar section.



Members of the Sarawak Constabulary wearing their smart new uniform at the Queen's Birthday Parade.

*Members of the Sarawak Constabulary wearing their smart new uniform at the Queen's Birthday Parade.*



## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE, 1953

A parade was held in honour of the Queen's birthday on 6th June on St. Thomas' School *padang*, with a march past led by the Constabulary Band, members of the Constabulary, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides from different schools and the Rangers. His Excellency the Governor took the salute from the

raised platform erected on the *padang*. Earlier during the ceremony His Excellency presented the insignia of M.B.E. to Mr. Ling Siew Ing of Sibu and Rev. Fr. A.W. Stonton of the S.P.G. Mission. He also presented Coronation medals to a number of recipients.





*His Excellency the Governor inspecting the Boy Scouts, Red Cross and other contingents in the Queen's Birthday Celebration Parade at St. Thomas' playing field.*



*The Sarawak Constabulary*



*St. Joseph School's Scout*



*The Chung Hwa School's Scout*

# The Centenary Festival

## The Procession Of Solemn Witness



Two of the most important features in the fortnight celebration of the Centenary of the Diocese of Borneo, now coming to the end, will take place on the

12th June, 1955. When in the morning an Ordination Service is to be held at St. Thomas's Cathedral and in the evening the mammoth Procession of Witness which

precede the solemn Evensong and Sermon.

Inclement weather on Sunday night marred the mammoth Procession of Solemn Witness held in connection with the Centenary Celebrations of the Diocese of Borneo, which otherwise would have been one of pomp and splendour.

The Procession started half an hour late in the hope that the weather would clear but this was not to be so. Thousands of people comprising the parishioners of this Diocese, representatives of parishes, missions and schools all over Borneo, members of the clergy and laity and dignitaries from overseas Priests' Ordination by the Archdeacon, Canon Adams, Dean Mandell and seven other priests. Also present at this ceremony will be the visiting Bishop of Knaresborough, the Bishop of Singapore and other visiting Clergy.

The Procession of Witness took place in the evening at 6 o'clock when it left the assembly place at St. Thomas's padang after the ringing of the Angelus Bell.

The Procession was headed by the Cross Bearer accompanied by Torch Bearers and Thurifers. Next in order came the Day Scholars and Boarders of St. Mary's School to be followed by representatives from a total of 74 schools and parishes throughout Borneo. The Day Scholars and Boarders of St. Thomas' School round up this section of the procession. Parishes and Mission Schools carry their own banner or flag.



# A Morning Of Traditional Pomp And Splendour

## Governor Takes Salute At Queen's Birthday Parade

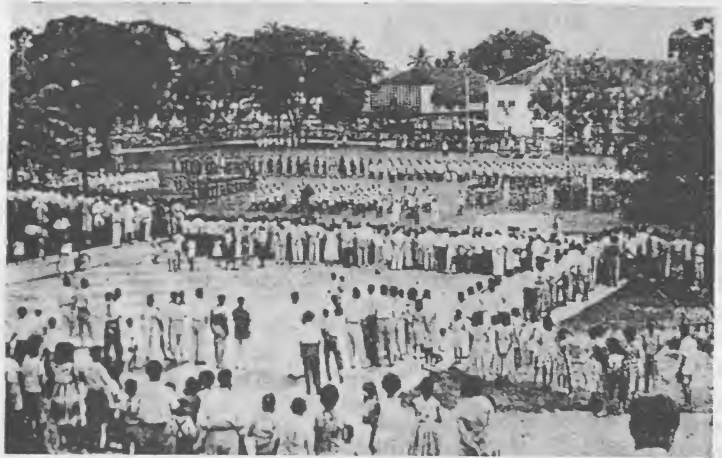
A twenty-one gun salute was fired last Thursday morning at 8 o'clock to mark the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. Ships in port were in full dress and Union Jacks were hoisted over many of the big buildings in town.

The Central Padang was gaily decorated and very large numbers of spectators thronged the nearby parks to witness the traditional Birthday Parade take place.

Contingents of the Sarawak Constabulary which also included the Field Force, Police Training School, Auxiliary Police and the Band, and detachments of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army participated in the Parade.

The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, accompanied by the Chief Justice, Sir Ernest Williams, the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, the Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha, the Resident of the First Division, Mr. A.F.R. Griffin, the Commissioner of the Sarawak Constabulary, Mr. P.E. Turnbull and the A.D.C., Mr. J. Nichol, arrived at the Padang at 8 a.m., and was immediately followed by an inspection by the Governor of the contingents represented in the field.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List was read by the Datu Bandar and then followed the presentation of Insignia and Certificates. Sir Anthony then took the Royal



*Tribune Pictures show (top) Sir Anthony Abell leaving the Kuching Municipal Council Chamber for the Padang, followed by the Chief Justice, Sir Ernest Williams; the A.D.C., Mr. John Nichol; Abang Haji Mustapha, the Datu Bandar, the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan; the Resident, First Division, Mr. A.F.R. Griffin; and the Commissioner of Police, Mr. P.E. Turnbull; (Bottom) a general view of the Padang from the Cathedral steps.*

Salute at the March Past of the contingents before the ceremony of the day came to an end.

### Sockalingam receives his O.B.E.

Dr. M. Sockalingam, who

has been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List, received the Insignia of the Order from Sir Anthony. He was supported by Mr. Ong Hap Leong and Mr. Tan Kui Choon.

# Queen's Birthday Parade



The citation reads as follow:-

"Dr. Murugasu Sockalingam was appointed an unofficial member of the Council Negri in March 1950 and subsequently reappointed in 1953 and 1956. He was appointed a member of Supreme Council in 1955 but was forced by ill health to retire from public affairs at the end of 1956."

"During his seven years of service as a member of the Legislature Dr. Sockalingam gave devoted and untiring attention to the business of the Council. His wise counsel and the respect and affection in which he was held by his fellow members established for him the status of an unofficial leadet of the non-Government members of the Legislature. His personal influence has always been constructively and helpfully applied to the various problems which have faced Council Negri, and has been of the greatest assistance to the Government."

"He has always taken a keen and active interest in social welfare work of all kinds, and has for some years played a leading part in the Social Welfare Council."



## Bronze Medal

The Bronze Medal and Certificate of the Royal Humane Society was then presented to Mr. Mani anak Pirang by Sir Anthony.

The Citation reads as follows:-

"Mr. Mani anak Pirang joined the anti-malaria unit as a sprayman in the Third Division in January 1957. On February 10th, 1957, during a journey from Belaga up the Balui river to Long Jawi, the Government boat capsized in the rapids at Long Han and one of the two Kenyah women passengers, an elderly woman, was carried away by the very strong current and drowned. A younger woman, a girl named Merita, who



managed to hold onto a rock, in the middle of the river soon became exhausted and tried to swim ashore, but she was a weak swimmer and immediately got into difficulties. With complete disregard for his own safety Mani jumped into the strong current to assist her and managed to drag her to the bank."

"There is no doubt that the girl owes her life to Mani's presence of mind and outstanding courage."

"For this brave act of life-saving the Royal Humane Society has awarded him the Society's Bronze Medal and Certificate."

## Certificates of honour

Certificates of Honours were presented by the Governor to the following:- Mr. Au Ah Lah, Mr. Ong Soon Chuan and Mr. Tan Chiew Lim (reading from left).



The citations read as follows:-

"Mr. Au Ah Lah, who has more than 39 years' meritorious and exemplary service to his credit, joined the Sarawak Government in 1918 as a clerk."

"In 1933 he became a principal accounting clerk in



the Land and Survey Department and in 1940 rose to Chief Clerk. In 1946 he was promoted Administrative Assistant."

"He has been of the greatest help to succeeding Heads of Department who have all spoken very highly of his excellent work, his outstanding reliability and integrity."

"His exemplary conduct has been an inspiration to all who have worked with him."

"Mr. Ong Soon Chuan joined the Sarawak Government Service in June, 1923 and since that time has served in the Sarawak Museum, Secretariat for Native Affairs and Resident's and District Office, Second Division. He has been holding



responsible positions in outstations since 1940 and is at present Chief Clerk in the District Office, Saratok. At the time of the Japanese occupation of Sarawak Mr. Ong Soon Chuan's loyalty to his senior officers earned him physical assaults from the occupying forces."

"His loyalty and conscientious work have been an example to his colleagues and the greatest assistance to his senior officers."

Mr. Tan Chiew Lim has served in the Second Division of Sarawak for 34 years. Not long after joining the Government Service in 1923 he held responsible positions as court writer in various stations in the Second Division and earned a reputation as a loyal and trustworthy officer. Since 1956 he has held the post of Chief Clerk in the District Office, Simanggang, and his exemplary conduct and his skill and tact in dealing with the general public has made him a popular and respected figure throughout the Division."

## DEATH IN COURSE OF DUTY Barcroft's Funeral Today

Body Flown Over From Lawas



*The Hon. Mr. J.C.H. Barcroft, C.M.G., O.S.S. - GSIS Picture*



It is with deep regret that the Government of Sarawak announces that the Chief Secretary, the Honourable Mr. John Co'eraine Hanbury Barcroft, C.M.G., O.S.S., died at Lawas, in the Fifth Division, yesterday at 12.15 p.m.

Mr. Barcroft, who was visiting Lawas in the course of an official tour, suffered a heart attack on Tuesday.

Immediately after the attack Mr. Barcroft was attended by Dr. W.C. Lees of the Borneo Evangelical Mission and Mrs. Devenish, Nursing Sister of the Mission. A specialist physician from Brunei, Dr. Glyn Griffiths, accompanied by a nurse, flew to Lawas in the Mission plane on Wednesday to give specialist advice and attention.

Two nurses from Miri were flown to Lawas in a helicopter of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Thursday to give additional assistance but despite all possible medical and nursing assistance Mr. Barcroft's condition worsened continually.

He died in the District Officer's bungalow.

The body of Mr. Barcroft was being flown to Kuching yesterday for burial. The funeral service will take place at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Kuching, today at 5 p.m.

In mark of respect a tolling bell was rung yesterday at St. Thomas's Cathedral and St. Joseph's Church from 1.45 p.m. till 2 p.m.

Flags are flying half mast throughout Sarawak until sun-down today.

Mr. Barcroft, who was 49-years-old, was appointed Chief Secretary of Sarawak only last month following the retirement of Mr. J.H. Ellis.

He had served the Government of Sarawak for 28 years — his entire career. He had been a member of Council Negri for 12 years and a Member of Supreme Council for four years.

Mr. Barcroft was educated at Weymouth College, Dorset, and on the Continent of Europe.

He joined the Rajah's Service in February 1930 as a Cadet and up to the outbreak of the war with Japan worked in various districts in the second Division, Lawas and in two districts in the Third Division.

He was interned in Kuching during the Japanese Occupation. After the liberation he became Resident of the Second Division.

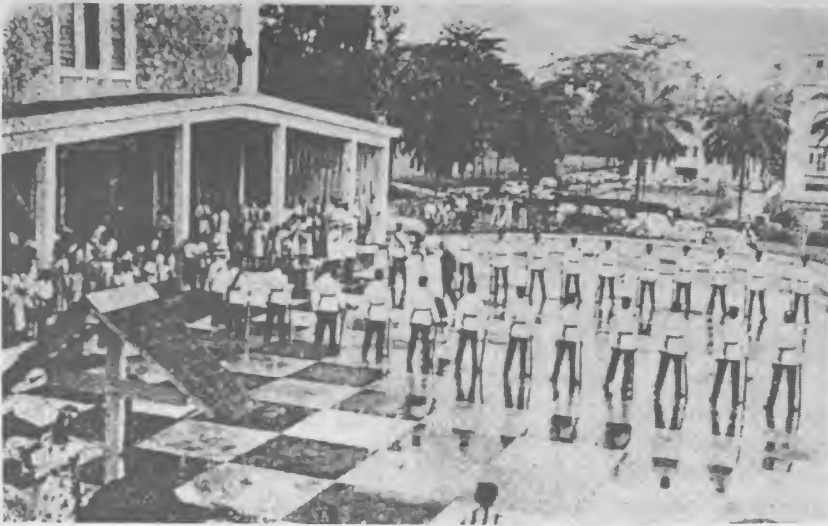
In June 1946 he was appointed by His Highness the Rajah to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the Star of Sarawak. In 1947 he became Resident of the Third Division. He was appointed British Resident, Brunei, in 1950 and promoted to Senior Resident in 1952. In 1955 he acted as Chief Secretary and in June that year was promoted to the post of Financial Secretary, Sarawak and Adviser to the High Commissioner on Brunei finances.

Mr. Barcroft was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) in last year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

He was a member of the Sarawak Turf Club and Royal Brunei Yacht Club which he founded.

Tribute was paid to the late Mr. Barcroft by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell in a broadcast over Radio Sarawak last night.

## Sarawak Pays Last Respects To Barcroft



*The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell is seen arriving at the Cathedral Church of St. Thomas for the funeral service.*

Sarawak paid its last respects to the late Mr. J.C.H. Barcroft, Chief Secretary, at the funeral service which was held in St. Thomas's Cathedral, Kuching at 5 p.m. on Saturday, and at which people from all walks of life attended.

Mr. Barcroft, who was only last month appointed Chief Secretary, suffered a heart attack last Tuesday in the course of an official tour of the Fifth Division.

He died in the District Officer's bungalow in Lawas on Friday noon and his body was flown over to Kuching on the same evening.

Long before five o'clock on Saturday afternoon people started to arrive at the Cathedral Church where masses of floral tributes were assembled.

A guard of honour mounted by the Sarawak Constabulary flanked the steps leading to the Cathedral and shortly before five the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell arrived and was received by the Provost of Kuching, the Very Rev. L.R. Wilson.

The funeral cortege arrived at the Church on the stroke of five. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and was carried by eight

members of the Sarawak Constabulary Field Force under the command of Mr. B.R.P. Edwards, Staff Officer, Sarawak Constabulary Official pall bearers were Messrs. C.B. Murray, Ong Hap Leong, Khoo Peng Loong, D.C. White, A.F.R. Griffin, Kho Soon Ewe, Edward Jerah and Abang Haji Mustapha, the Datu Bandar.

Led by the Provost, the coffin was carried into the Cathedral followed immediately by the A.D.C. to the Governor, Mr. John Nichol who carried the insignia, sword and decorations of Mr. Barcroft. Behind him walked the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell.

The service was conducted by the Provost who also read the Lesson. When this solemn service was over the cortege then moved on to the S.P.G. cemetery, followed by a very large retinue of mourners.

Among those who attended the services in the Cathedral and at the graveside were the Governor, the Chief Justice and Lady Williams, the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, members of the Supreme Council and Council Negri, Mrs. J.O. Gilbert, wife of the retiring British Resident Brunei, heads of



# Sarawak Pays Last Respects



*The funeral cortege is about to begin the last journey to the cemetery.*

*Tribune Picture*

departments and their wives, leaders of communities, representatives of commerce and associations, members of the personal household and friends.

An old friend, Dr. E.M. Marjoribanks sat in his car near the entrance to the cemetery to pay his last respects.

The Governor of North Borneo was to have sent the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.N. Turner to be his personal representative at the funeral but air passage could not be obtained.

All through Friday and Saturday, messages of condolence came pouring into the Secretariat. They came from the Commissioner-General, Sir Robert and Lady Scott; the Governor of Hong Kong and Lady Black; the Governor of Singapore and Lady Goode; the Governor of North Borneo, Sir Roland Turnbull; the Rajah of Sarawak; the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd; the British Resident, Brunei; the Chief Secretary, North Borneo; Mr. Ting Lik Hung and 15 area headmen in Sibui; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Shell Oil Companies in Borneo, Mr. R.E. Hales; the Chairman of the Foochow Association, Sibui; Mr. Ling Beng Siew; the Resident and people of the Third Division; the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Sibui, Mr. Chew Geok Lin; the Chairman and members of the Sibui Urban District Council;

the District Officer, Limbang; the Resident and members of the Second Division Advisory Council, Simanggang.

## *Tributes*

On Friday night tribute was paid to the late Mr. Barcroft by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell in a broadcast over Radio Sarawak.

"It is with a heavy heart that I speak to night," Sir Anthony said. "And I know that very many of you are feeling like me bewildered and shocked by the sudden loss of a great friend. For me it is difficult to imagine Sarawak without the gay, friendly, irrepressible John Barcroft."

"He was one of the those refreshing people who always remained young, who could always reduce the gloomiest moment, the most weighty occasion to laughter and light and to a sense of proportion. And now, when we need him most, he has gone."

"John had a serious side to his character but it was never allowed to obtrude for long and his sense of humour prevented him from ever being pompous."

"He was in fact the most unpompous senior official I have ever met, and he did not much like it in others. He could in a flash expose the truth because in him absolute truth and integrity were in his nature. One knew



with certainty whatever the occasion, whatever the audience that from John Barcroft you'll get nothing but the truth as he saw it."

"He could never contemplate compromise with anything which he thought was wrong or dishonest or mean. As long as this period in Sarawak's story is remembered people will tell stories about John Barcroft. They will become part of the history of this country. They are amusing, kindly stories in which common sense and truth triumph over humbug and bureaucracy. They are the sort of stories one would like to hear about British people; they certainly represent, as John Barcroft himself did, the best in our national character and the best in the record of the Rajah's service and we can feel proud and grateful for him."

"Like very many of you I shall miss him deeply as a stimulating friend, as a man who made life more amusing, who was always considerate and generous but asked for himself so little."

"As my principal adviser, as one on whose judgement I had come to rely implicitly, I know my loss to be irreparable."

"To the people of Lawas, where he served before the war, and where he died this afternoon, to the Ibans of the Third Division, to the Malays of Simanggang and to the Chinese in Sibu and Kuching, to all who have known his friendship I send my deepest sympathy. No better friend, no truer servant of the people has been this way."

Four other personal tributes were paid to the late Mr. Barcroft over Radio Sarawak on Saturday.

They were from Mr. Ong Kee Hui, Member of the Council Negri and Supreme Council (in the Chinese service), Mr. G.A.C. Field, Commissioner of Trade and Customs (in English); Abang Haji Mustapha the Datu Bandar, Member of the Council Negri and Supreme Council (in Malay); and Mr. Edward Jerah, former Member of Council Negri and Supreme Council (in Iban).



## Election Day Message

On the eve of the first free Municipal elections in Kuching the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, who is now on a tour of the Fourth Division and is expected to return tomorrow, has made the following recorded message which was broadcast over Radio Sarawak last night.

Sir Anthony said: "I think the patient listeners to Radio Sarawak and the readers of the newspapers must be rather tired of hearing about civic responsibilities and voters rights, etc. So although election day draws near, the first in Kuching's history, I shall try to spare you as far as possible and be brief."

"First of all just in case others should forget to do so, I would like to thank those who have organised these

elections. It has been no mean or common place feat because there are no precedents here and no ready-made pattern. It all had to be worked out the hard way and though the general form may be familiar to some the details are in fact pure Fisher."

"And so I would like to start by congratulating the present Chairman of the Municipal Council. He has spent many months of anxious confinement and I hope or believe that the results will bear his unmistakable stature, will do him credit and be some reward for his hard work and his very many worries. Then I would like to mention the Press because I know that they have been of the very greatest assistance to Mr. Fisher and his team giving their services and space in their newspapers free — giving also good and helpful advice to the public—in fact giving the positive lead which is the privilege of a responsible press. The British Council, Radio Sarawak and the Information Officer have together produced excellent material and have worked long hours to be of the maximum assistance. Indeed for the first time we can say that we have made

full and concerted use of all our modern facilities for distributing information to the public."

"Last but not least I must of course mention the competitors — the men and women in the limelight. I have been struck but not surprised by the friendliness of the campaign. There has been practically no mud-slinging and this omission, let me hasten to say, is not a mark of immaturity, ignorance or inexperience. In most countries politics seem to be taken to give a man licence to behave in a thoroughly boorish and uncivilised manner. I am thankful we haven't followed the precedents in this way and I hope we shall continue to conduct our elections like civilised mature human beings. I personally don't think it is clever or constructive or amusing to call a neighbour every name under the sun because you happen to be contesting a seat in an election with him. You don't or shouldn't start a football or badminton contest with a slanging match in the hope of influencing the referee in your favour."

"I must also welcome the observers who have come to Kuching from many of our larger centres and from

places even beyond our frontiers. I hope they will learn something of value from this experience in Kuching. But Kuching does not claim this is the only way to do things, what has worked (at least we hope it will work) in a cosmopolitan urban community like Kuching may not be equally effective or acceptable in Kapit."

"Lastly one word to the voters. Kuching for the purpose of this operation has been divided into territorial wards, so please try to select the best individuals in your ward, irrespective of whether they are Hakkas or Malays or Cantonese or Dayaks. We could have divided the area communally and we could have asked you to vote only for people of your own race, but we did not do so because it would not be in the best interests of the future nor in the traditions of Sarawak. So please support us in this."

"Best wishes to you. You can't all win but you can all of you get some enjoyment and useful experience out of the contest, and make new friends and feel that whether you win or lose you are taking a leading part in a great occasion and you can after all have another shot next time."

# **GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE FIRST ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

"It is very kind of you to invite me to address your Council this afternoon at its first ordinary meeting. It is a privilege of which I am very conscious as I feel that this is a meeting of considerable significance in our history. In this opening address I shall not talk to you about the practical application of the principles of local government or tell you how to run your own affairs. Some of you have more experience than I have in this matter and the rest of you will learn far more quickly through your own experience and intuition than through any number of lectures from me or from anyone else."

"Outside the details of your work, there are one or two points I would like you to consider. First of all there is the matter of your relationship with Government. This is of vital importance to you and to the Central Government but it is a relationship which is not easy to define. I think the best description of it and the one I like best is partnership. The Central Government is responsible for formulating the general lines of policy and the local authorities within the range of their activities give effect to that policy, but you exercise your responsibilities in your own right and not as agents of Government Departments. I hope we can develop this feeling of partnership between the Municipality of Kuching and the Central Government, and that you Mr. President and members of your committees will never hesitate to seek advice from Government and to call upon the technical departments of Government for any assistance or help of which you feel the need. I hope this will develop a sense of mutual confidence and an association which will allow both parties to discharge their duties and responsibilities with the maximum efficiency. I would like you Mr. President to feel that you have behind you a Government prepared to support you in your difficulties and rejoice with you in your triumphs. I have asked the Departments of Government to take particular note of my re-

quest that they should give every help in their power to you."

"I would like also to say a word about your relationship with the public, your public, who selected you. From among many of the citizens of Kuching the public selected you to represent their interests and views in this Council and to govern the affairs of this town with tranquility and efficiency. But among the electors were many who did not vote for you; many in fact voted for other people, but now that you are elected you represent them all, not only the majority but the minority as well. A member is expected to be aware of the views held by his electors and take them into consideration in making his own judgements in the wider interest of the State. You are sent here to get on with the job for the good of all because the people have confidence in your wisdom and ability. They do not expect to be consulted in the day to day work of this Council. That would be an impossible situation but they expect to be kept in touch through, the medium of the Press and through personal contact with you."

"Which brings me to the important matter of your relationship with the Press. The Press and Radio have been very helpful to this Council in the past and I believe all would agree they contributed greatly to the success that attended the recent elections. I am sure you will be conscious of their wish to continue to support and assist you in your task and that in return you will take them into your confidence and trust them to interpret fairly your intentions and your performance."

"But the Press has a less easy task to perform in a free country: it also acts as the public safety valve. It is their duty to air public grievances and honestly-held views: Some of these will be critical of you and your work: some of them will appear hurtful and damaging to your reputation. Some may possibly be dictated by spite or malice,



misconception and ignorance and will be difficult to bear with a calm mind; but the essence of democracy is that there should be freedom of expression and the public are usually quick to recognize the malicious and the unjust, and a responsible press educates its readers to differentiate between public spirit and bad blood."

"Your public will at times exasperate you — they will appear obstinately obtuse and at times deliberately destructive. It requires a great deal of patience and courage and above all a sense of humour to be a leader in a democratic state. It asks much more of a man than other systems of government where freedom is denied."

"Your success in Kuching depends very largely upon the maintenance of the highest possible standards of public service and professional conduct. It is not sufficient that the public servant should keep within the law; he must avoid scrupulously any situation in which suspicion may arise that he is displaying partiality, politically or otherwise, or using his office for private gain. The co-operation and vigilance of the public and the Press as well as you the elected representatives is required in this matter. I have always been impressed by the high standards of public service in this country. I know you gentlemen will make it your special responsibility to see that these standards are maintained. There can be no compromise, no intercourse between corruption and public service — they cannot live together in the same house or in the same Council or the same Service."

"Many people from outside Kuching will watch your progress. They will come here to study your difficulties; they will judge your faults; they will copy your achievements. Some will say that you are not ready for such a long step forward. I disagree emphatically. I know you will do this job better than it has ever been done before because you are determined to do so, because you will uphold the best traditions of Sarawak and because the people of Kuching will give you their whole-hearted support and co-operation."

"I think we should take a look further afield in time and space this afternoon because your influence as individuals and as a Council will as I have said extend outside the boundaries of Kuching. I hope you will

give thought to the future of this country and the role it has to play in this region of the world, because what you feel about the future will influence others. I think we should consciously follow an example which has proved of outstanding success in the world, the Dominions such as Australia or Canada. They have made astonishing progress in the last fifty years — they have remained staunchly members of the Commonwealth family, they have followed faithfully the democratic road which we are following and incidentally they are very good friends and admirers of ours."

"I read a very interesting letter in a newspaper the other day by a Canadian in which he bemoaned the bitterness and the discord which mark the progress to independence in most colonial territories. What he said was this: Canada had attained the complete independence without struggle, without even a whisper of rebellion and attained it at the time when she was ready for it not before and not after. It was British capital and industry, her engineers and administrators who built the prosperity she now enjoys. Over more than 100 years of tutelage Canada learnt the meaning and value of obligations of democratic citizenship. She gained her independence by stages and by degrees. Now, Canada is a plural society like Sarawak; she must have gone through all the same in difficulties and problems brought about by differences of races, language and religion yet she did it without bitterness, with no aftermath of suspicion and distrust, still less of hatred, and she did it slowly and in her own time. We can and will do the same here."

"Allow me to quote from a letter I received this Christmas from someone known to you all who made his mark in Sarawak after a regrettably short time here and was recently transferred to some distant land. He writes as follows: "Naturally we think a lot of you and Sarawak, and particularly of the new Constitution and how it is finding its feet. I may say, I really do think Sarawak has a unique chance to show the world how to grow in stature and achieve nationhood without bitterness, intolerance and rancour; how to live in racial harmony and mutual respect; and how to work together for the national good rather than merely that of party, race or creed. A world example of this seems sadly needed at the present time.' These are

complimentary words which will require some living up to. I have heard it suggested that the British element in our partnership will leave this country. I sincerely hope not. I hope the British will always be regarded as part and parcel of this country. We have our own contribution to make to progress and to the happiness and prosperity of this country as we have in the past and I hope that our particular British genius in certain directions blended with the genius of the other races which comprise our society will remain an integral part of the nation which is here being fashioned."

"There is one other very important matter to us — our neighbours. Within this island they consist of Indonesian Borneo, North Borneo and Brunei. We do not know much about Indonesian Borneo. They have met a great many difficulties because they were unprepared for the business of government. How they will regard us in the future is also a matter of uncertainty. They may of course cast jealous eyes on our prosperity or may leave us to our devices, at any rate, I think, we must leave them out of our reckoning for the present. North Borneo and Brunei are in the same school so to speak and the differences between us and them are no greater than the

differences of race, language and wealth which we live with in Sarawak. We have seen Singapore and Malaya drift apart, to the detriment of each. We must avoid that here. We are all small countries and weak, and singly I fear we may not be treated by our neighbours with much consideration but together speaking with a united voice we would be sure of a hearing. You Councillors who travel the three countries of Borneo can do much to foster good relations and a closer understanding, which is of course the preliminary to any close political association. I am sure each of those countries wishes to retain its own identity and sovereignty but that should not rule out the closest co-operation in the solution of the many problems which we share.

"Mr. President and Councillors, it gives me great pleasure and pride to talk to you this afternoon and I am most grateful to you for your gracious invitation. I can assure you Mr. President of my confidence in you personally and in your Councillors and I can promise you my support and any assistance of which I am capable in the many tasks and problems which will confront you during your term of office."

## CONFIDENCE IN NEW COUNCIL



*(The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell is seen above addressing the first ordinary meeting of Kuching's newly-elected Municipal Council.*

# GOVERNOR STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND UNITY 1957

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, in a Chinese New Year Day broadcast stressed the importance of peace and unity in Sarawak particularly at this stage in her development.

He said the country had enjoyed another year of "fair prosperity and above all peace and freedom."

Sir Anthony added: "We must not allow ourselves to forget for one moment what a precious thing peace and unity is, especially at this time in our development; in giving us the opportunity to mould and build our society and institutions in an atmosphere of calm and so to prepare this land all the more effectively to take her place in the world."

"There are doubtless some who disagree with the way in which we are going about this. I would remind those people that they are at liberty to express their criticism and to express it without the fear of sudden destruction of themselves, their families, their homes and their fortunes as occurred in Budapest in Hungary a few months ago — a terrible and utterly unjust fate to inflict on a national living in their own land and asking for no more than the right to be able to select their own government and to speak their minds freely."

"You have always been allowed to speak your minds freely here but under our new Constitution and through the District Councils which have, in these last few months been established throughout Sarawak and in which you are taking part with Ibans, Land Dayaks, Malays and all the many other inhabitants of this country you will have the

opportunity not only to express an opinion but of seeing your views converted into action and that is a very different matter. It immediately puts a far higher value on your judgement."

"I am sure you will be thoughtful and considerate of not only the needs of your neighbours but of the needs and hopes of all the others who go to make up this great family of Sarawak."

"You will be able to draw on the best that you can give, on the best that offers from others and on the advice and experience that the British can and will willingly continue to make available to you."

Referring again to the "peace and unity", Sir Anthony said: "I think sometimes Chinese people make a greater effort to avoid tension and misunderstanding with people of other races than they do between themselves; among their own Chinese clan groups."

"In one of our most important and progressive towns these petty clan jealousies ruffle an otherwise smooth and tranquil surface and do no one any good whatever but in fact weaken the body politic."

Sir Anthony concluded his broadcast by saying: "Let us look forward with confidence to what the future may bring with the conviction that if we continue in the spirit of Chinese New Year, of Christmas and Hari Raya in friendship and in good faith throughout the year we can meet the unexpected without fear, face adversity with courage and enjoy the prosperity which your industry and enterprise richly deserve."



# 'GOVT. TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMY, TIGHTEN SECURITY' SAYS GOVERNOR

Kuching businessmen told: "You have vital part to play in plans"

Kuching's Chinese businessmen were told by the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, 1958 that they had a vital part to play in the plans being made by the Sarawak Government to strengthen economy and tighten the security of the country.

Sir Anthony referred to some of the plans — the setting up of a Department of Trade, the building of a new port in Kuching, the steps being taken to improve the pepper industry, the efforts being made to attract more capital and the proposals put out for a closer association of the three Borneo territories.

Sir Anthony said this when he addressed the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce at a dinner held on Saturday, February 15, to celebrate the Chamber's 30th anniversary and to pay tribute to its four past Chairmen.

## 'World a highly competitive place'

Sarawak's progress and peace, said Sir Anthony, depended upon two things — prosperity and security.

"The world today is not only a very quarrelsome place but it is a highly competitive place as well. We want to be a people whose friendship is valued and whose disapproval is to be avoided," he said.

Sir Anthony continued: "We must do something now to strengthen our economy and tighten our security. I recently put to you the outline of a plan I think will help to do both. We have other plans, too, in which the Chamber must play an active part if we are to meet with success."

After saying that the Government was contemplating the establishment of a Department of Trade, Sir Anthony told those present: "There is a great deal the Government and you, the Trade, must do to modernize your techniques and make us more formidable in world markets and less dependent on others."

## 'Take a new look at your contacts'

"In the next two years we are building a costly new port in Kuching to serve the whole country. We must not only ensure that its management is really efficient, modern and streamlined but that the trade takes full advantage of it. I think what is required is a new look at your contacts and in general a more enterprising and forward looking attitude in regard to your markets."

Turning to the present Chairman, Mr. Tan Kui Choon, he said: "I was told the other day by your opposite number in Singapore that our reputation as pepper producers has gone and that we are incapable of producing a quality which is acceptable and to the best standards. This was very sad news to hear and the pepper trade should do what it can now to improve the quality in anticipation of better prices in the future."

"We have an officer in America now examining the market and the trade generally and I hope that when he returns he will be able to suggest a way to improvement in this important export crop."

Sir Anthony then said: "We want more capital in Sarawak and we are doing what we can to attract it through legislation such as our Pioneer Industries Ordinance and through advertisements which you will shortly see in the newspapers; but we must have a new kind of investment. We want more minor industries and not more shophouses. We cannot only be a nation of retail shopkeepers and small farmers. It is not enough. It will not provide the jobs or the incentive or level of prosperity we require."

## 'Closer association' plan commended

Sir Anthony next referred to the plan for closer association between the three Borneo territories and said he commended it to the Chamber "with all seriousness."

"In all these far reaching plans for our betterment, your help and encouragement, your experience and your advice and your energy are needed," Sir Anthony told

members of the Chamber.

In his address Sir Anthony paid a tribute to each of the Chamber's four past Chairmen — the late Mr. Ong Tiang Swee, the late Mr. Tan Sum Guan, Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang and Mr. Tan Bak Lim.

"I do not think it would be possible to select four names who have done more to lay the foundations of Sarawak's commercial prosperity," he said.

Of the late Mr. Ong, he said: "He was active in public life for over 50 years. He was one of the Rajah's closest advisers and was made a life member of the Supreme Council and a Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the Star of Sarawak, the two highest marks of esteem and confidence bestowed by the Rajah on his subjects.

### **Family tradition of service being continued**

"The sons and grandsons of this grand old man continue the family tradition of service to the Government and people of Sarawak to the satisfaction and benefit of us all."

Sir Anthony said that though he never knew Mr. Tan Sum Guan he had heard that he was a "very kindly and warm hearted gentleman who in his treatment of young Government officers took a more liberal view than General Orders and Financial Regulations."

Turning to his son, the present Chairman, Sir Anthony said: "You have carried on the traditions of the business he founded. Your services to this country as a member of Council Negri and of the Supreme Council and here as Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce have been manifold; your keen interest in the welfare and healthy

recreation of youth, which has been of outstanding value to this country, and in which your leadership has been of great importance has marked you as a true son of an enterprising and far-sighted father."

Sir Anthony next referred to Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang whom he described as "our greatest banker and philanthropist."

Mr. Wee, he added, had performed many acts of kindness and charity, of unobtrusive help, of practical sympathy and wise advice during his all too short visits to Sarawak." (Mr. Wee resides in Singapore).

Continued Sir Anthony, "We hear little of all this because Mr. Wee is a modest man as well as a generous one which, of course, adds to our admiration of him. He has done a great deal for Sarawak. One day I hope he will do more, that he will give us the most acceptable favour of all — the pleasure of seeing him permanently back here where he belongs."

Turning to Mr. Tan Bak Lim the Governor said: "No one of my race, the British, who have heard the story or lived through its sombre tale will forget the gallantry and complete disregard of the likely consequences to their own safety and survival of people like Mr. Tan and other staunch friends who brought succour and comfort to those who were imprisoned, starved and maltreated here at Batu Lintang during those dark and haunting days of the occupation: times which in other ways should now be forgotten."

"But I know we British cannot forget these people because no greater sacrifice, no surer proof of friendship is conceivable."

After his address Sir Anthony unveiled the portraits of the four past Chairmen.

# GOVERNOR TELLS THE PEOPLE OF PLAN TO BRING BORNEO TERRITORIES INTO CLOSER PARTNERSHIP

**'It will be of great value to Sarawak'**

In a broadcast to the people of Sarawak on Friday, February 7, the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, put forward the broad outline of a plan for "the closer association of the three territories of Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo."

Briefly the plan envisages the need for a central authority which might consist of a single Representative of the Queen for all three territories exercising the powers of the present High Commissioner in Brunei. He might be styled Governor-General or Governor and High Commissioner. Sarawak and North Borneo will continue to have "Officers, Governors or Lieutenant Governors in charge of local affairs."

The central authority would see that "the rules of the partnership were observed" and it is thought that it should control certain activities which the three governments consider could best be handled on an inter-territorial basis, such as defence, internal security and communications.

The three governments, the plan further envisages, would continue as before to control their own revenue and expenditure and generally to carry out the functions of an independent government in their own territories.

## **'Great economic advantages'**

Besides strengthening Sarawak's security and maintaining her way of life, Sir Anthony told the people, closer association in partnership would have great economic advantages for the country.

But emphasised that the Government was not putting out a "firm plan" which it had already discussed in detail. It was merely outlining a series of ideas which it considered basically sound and good for consideration by the people.

A similar broadcast was made on Friday from Jesselton by the Governor of North Borneo, Sir Roland Turnbull.

In his broadcast the Governor of Sarawak first referred to the subject of a closer association between the territories as being "of the greatest importance to the future of Sarawak."

"It is a matter which has been in the minds of many of us for some time," he said.

"Some of you will have seen references to it and speculation about it in the newspapers, and I have no doubt that many of you will have discussed it amongst yourselves, but this is the first time any public reference has been made to the subject by any Government in the Borneo Territories," added Sir Anthony.

He continued: "First of all I would like to explain very briefly what I mean when I talk about closer association."

"Although these three territories are linked by the protection of the British Government and although two of them are part of Her Majesty's Territories we are, to all intents and purposes, three quite separate administrations with no real administrative or constitutional links between us; we are, in fact, three separate small units."

"If we entered into some kind of partnership we would form one much larger, more powerful and more influential unit. None of us, I think, would want to enter into any form of association which would destroy those traditional characteristics of which all three territories are rightly and properly proud; but we can, I think, achieve a much closer association than exists at present without any loss of our own character if we proceed on the following lines."

## **Central Authority needed**

"What we would need would be a central authority to see that the rules of the partnership were observed and that its main objective was always kept in mind."

"The central authority should also be made responsible for certain activities which



the three partners consider could best be dealt with on a central or inter-territorial basis. We might consider such subjects to be:-

**Defence and external relations,**

**Internal security**

**Communications, Civil Aviation and Meteorological**

**Services, Postal Services and Telecommunications and of course the combined departments already existing such as Judiciary and Geological Survey."**

"We would hope that in time and with the growth of confidence it would be found both economical and advantageous to share other services such as Trade and Customs, Banking and Currency, and in the fields of Research and the specialist services required in Medical, Education, Agriculture and indeed in most departments of Government today."

"The central authority's control would therefore be limited to those activities specifically allotted to it by the three Governments. The three Governments would continue as before to control their own revenue and expenditure and generally to fulfill the functions of an independent Government in their own territories."

"The central authority might consist of a single Representative of the Queen for all three territories exercising the powers of the present High Commissioner in Brunei. He might be styled Governor-General or Governor and High Commissioner. His advisers might conveniently be drawn from the Executive/Legislative Councils of the three territories. He would travel as Queen's Representative throughout the three territories presiding over the Supreme Council meetings in Kuching from time to time and at the Executive Council in Jesselton. He would not sit on Council Negri in Sarawak nor in the Legislative Council in North Borneo."

"It should be possible for him to spend a great deal of his time visiting the people of the three territories; he would indeed be less tied to a central headquarters than is the Governor today and with the vast improvements in communications which we plan he should be able to keep in very close touch with the people of all three territories."

"Sarawak and North Borneo will of course continue to have Officers, Governors or

Lieutenant Governors in charge of the local affairs."

"That is in broad outline the kind of partnership which I believe should improve our status, strengthen our position and bring us many advantages without, as I have already stated, destroying the essential characteristics of the internal Government of Sarawak, a Government which has developed on sound and steady lines since the days of the first Rajah, and which I think I can truthfully say has brought happiness and prosperity to Sarawak."

### **'Consider it carefully'**

Sir Anthony then said: "I want to emphasise the fact that what I have just said does not represent a set of firm and final proposals for closer partnership. My own personal opinion is that it can best be achieved on the lines I have indicated, but I must emphasise that what I am doing tonight is putting to you, the people of Sarawak, a number of ideas on this important subject which I want you to consider carefully, and on which I want you, in due course, and when you have fully considered them, to express your own views. I do want this to be clearly understood that the Government is not putting to you a firm plan which it has already decided in detail, it is merely outlining a series of ideas which it considers to be basically sound and good for consideration by you."

"My own personal view, and that of my Officers and Advisers, is that some step towards closer association and closer partnership such as is now suggested would be of great value to Sarawak, and I would like to give you, again briefly, the reasons for this opinion."

### **'Our security will be strengthened'**

"I referred earlier to the fact that we are at present three small and, perhaps, vulnerable countries; you will have noticed that the world today does not show much consideration for small and weak nations, particularly when they happen to be rich, as Sarawak is, in promise and natural resources."

"I do not think we can safely say that here in Sarawak we are in any way immune from the dangers which threaten such small territories and although we know we can always rely upon protection of Her Majesty's Government it is, I think, very important that

we should among ourselves take what steps we can to strengthen the security of the Borneo territories."

"Every step towards closer association, every move which enables the three territories to turn a united front to the outside world will greatly strengthen our own security and the continuation here of the way of life to which we have become accustomed."

"I have no doubt that closer association in partnership will have great economic advantages to us. In time it is certain that the larger markets and the removal of trade barriers will lead to greater opportunities and to better trading conditions and therefore to a higher standard of living."

"The Government of the three territories should in due course be able to offer to the people greater facilities more cheaply and with greater efficiency. In short, it should lead to greater confidence, more self reliance, a greater contribution to external defence and to Commonwealth solidarity and I believe to a stronger and more prosperous Sarawak."

#### **'No disadvantages of substance'**

"What of the disadvantages of such a scheme? I can see none of substance. Sarawak will still retain its own name and identity and order its own internal affairs, and control its own estimates. H.M.G. in the United Kingdom will continue to be our guardian and our friend and indeed a partner with the three of us in this venture. The Queen's Representative will remain in close touch with the people, and these proposals will not in any way impede or retard the process of preparation for internal self government as laid down in our Constitution."

Sir Anthony then explained the position of Brunei. He said: "You will notice that I have throughout this talk referred to the three Borneo territories."

"His Highness the Sultan is aware of the discussions which have taken place and is aware also that we in Sarawak and North Borneo intend to consult public opinion. He quite understandably would like first to study the plans which emerge from our discussions and the public reaction to these plans before he commits either himself or his Government to their support."

"Brunei is, I believe, a vital element in this process of alliance and I hope that public dis-

cussion will convince the people of Brunei of the solid advantages of a closer association and a better understanding of her neighbours. We have seen examples near us of people, who should be working together, but who have drifted apart to their detriment."

#### **Opportunities for discussion**

After reminding the people that what he had said earlier was "only a brief statement of the ideas which we have in mind," Sir Anthony said: "Your Residents, District Officers and Senior Native Officers are aware of these views and are prepared to discuss the matter with you at any time, and to answer your questions. When you have had time to consider these proposals there will be formal discussion of them in your District Council and your Divisional Advisory Council, and at a later stage, in the Council Negri."

"I personally think the proposals I have suggested to you, or something very like them, are essential to Sarawak's future security and the maintenance of Sarawak's way of life; others may have other ideas, but whatever the public's view on these questions, I hope that they are aired and discussed thoughtfully and amicably, and that in no circumstances will you allow mischief-makers to make these proposals an opportunity to foster resentment and racial discord."

"I think we showed here in Sarawak, when between us we made Sarawak's new Constitution, that we were capable of settling important issues of this kind in a spirit of reason and co-operation between all races and all interested parties."

"I want to assure you before I finish that the object in the forefront of my mind when I talk to you tonight is to preserve securely Sarawak's present happy and friendly character. After long consideration of all the factors involved, I am certain that some closer association with our neighbours is essential for this. I hope that you yourselves will after you have considered this question, come to the same conclusion."

Concluding his broadcast, Sir Anthony said: "I have been in Sarawak eight years. During that time I have seen a lot of this country and met a large number of the people in it. You know that I regard it with deep affection, and that I consider it to be a country full of promise for the future."

# **Governor's Hari Raya Message 1958**

## **Strong Warning Against Racial Separatism**

### **Call For Future That Must Be Shared By All**

A warning that the greatest danger to the future of the Malays in Sarawak was the growth of racial separatism which would lead to a racial struggle for power, was made by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell in his message to the Malays of the country on the occasion of Hari Raya.

The message, which was broadcast over Radio Sarawak was the last Hari Raya message to be made by Sir Anthony as he will be leaving the country at the end of the year.

"I have enjoyed these years in Sarawak very much", the Governor said, "and I have looked forward each year to Hari Raya; especially to the opportunity it affords me to visit my friends in their own houses and to meet their families in the atmosphere of goodwill, gaiety and friendship which is the message of Hari Raya."

"People may say that there is a tendency to spend too much on entertainment, on new paint and new clothes, and on fire crackers. That may be so, but it is really a small price to pay if we can thereby keep alive this unique Sarawak form of celebration which is shared and enjoyed by all. I have spoken to you on other occasions of the importance I attach to the significance of Hari Raya to the future of this country as well as to the Malay community. By Muslim tradition it renews the bonds of family and the unity of Islam; by Sarawak custom it strengthens the bonds of friendship between people of different races."

"When the Chief Secretary, Mr. Ellis, was leaving Sarawak, on retirement the other day he spoke of the dangers of complacency and I entirely agree with what he said. We have much to be thankful for particularly in the racial harmony which exists here as an established and natural practice, as a part of our adat lama, but the danger is that we may forget how quickly relationships can sour, how quickly misunderstandings can grow when fed with jealousy, racial rivalry and mischief; we have surely seen in many

countries around us a terrible warning to be on our guard against complacency."

"The talks we are now having about a closer relationship between the three territories of North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak are I know testing our inter-racial unity. I have read with great interest in the newspapers the accounts of Council meetings throughout the country and the letters which have been written by individuals on this subject. Some are enthusiastic, some doubtful, a few hostile and of course there are many who are probably uninterested or uncomprehending. I want you to know that I am not going to accept the views of the enthusiastic just because I happen to agree with them."

### **share and share alike**

There is, I believe, a feeling that the Government is trying to move too quickly in this matter, that there have been too many changes of late and that political advance has been altogether too fast. Let me assure you that in this matter of a closer association between the three territories we have no desire to press you to an early decision. Perhaps it may be a year or two or longer before you have made up your mind what you want to do about it. We must try to avoid making it a racial issue — it's an important matter for Sarawak as a whole and so it is with a single mind we would approach it. We are going to consider this matter carefully and calmly because it concerns our future and because we want everyone to have time to consider the advantages and disadvantages of living in closer accord with our neighbours. I want to hear all points of view. There is therefore no reason for you the Malays to be suspicious either of Government's intentions or the intentions of other racial groups in this matter. The tone of some of the letters which I have read leaves the impression that suspicion arise because some people feel that the Chinese enthusiasm for the plan must



## interdependence

for the Chinese or if the country is in political turmoil. Our progress depends entirely on how we pull together — Chinese and Malays, Dayaks and Melanaus in the same boat proceeding up the same river. Which gets me back to Hari Raya it is the spirit of Hari Raya shared by Muslims and Christians, the spirit of Chinese New Year shared by Chinese and Malays and the spirit of Christmas shared by all mankind which will smooth away racial conflicts and prejudices which are bound to arise in any mixed community. If we can keep this spirit alive we need fear no small differences of opinion over things like education or land or closer association or opportunities, and conversely if we can recognize and silence the mischief maker who perhaps unknowingly spreads his infection then we need fear no ill.

"I hope you will enjoy this Hari Raya and that you will go out of your way to offer the hospitality of your homes to your friends of other races. If each household could make it a point of honour to invite at least one of their friends or acquaintances of other races to their homes during this festival you Malay people could feel you were giving to the country a worthy example of Muslim ethics. You will surely find it rewarding because you will know that you are doing the will of Allah in promoting the brotherhood of man and the prosperity and unity of your country."

"In His Hari Raya message broadcast 1958, the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, assured the Malays of the country that they had no reason to be suspicious of the intentions of either Government or other racial groups on the questions of the proposals for a closer association of the three Borneo Territories.

racess."

"That is untrue and unfair. Although there are obvious trading advantages and defence and security advantages, surely they will be shared by all."

Sir Anthony also uttered a serious warning to the Malay community to beware of the dangers of racialism.

"The greatest danger to your future as Malays," he declared, "is the growth of racial separatism in Sarawak which would lead to a racial struggle for power."

The progress of Sarawak, he added, entirely depended on "how we pull together - Chinese and Malays, Dayaks and Melanaus - in the same boat and proceeding up the same river."

### **Testing inter-racial unity**

Referring to the 'closer association' talks, Sir Anthony said that they were testing the country's inter-racial unity.

He continued: "I have read with great interest in the newspapers the accounts of Council meetings throughout the country and the letters which have been written by individuals on this subject. Some are enthusiastic, some doubtful, a few hostile and of course there are many who are probably uninterested or uncomprehending."

"I want you to know that I am not going to accept the views of the enthusiastic just because I happen to agree with them."

"There is, I believe, a feeling that the Government is trying to move too quickly in this matter, that there have been too many changes of late and that political advance has been altogether too fast."

"Let me assure you that in this matter of a closer association between the three territories we have no desire to press you to an early decision. Perhaps it may be a year or two or longer before you have made up your mind what you want to do about it."

"We must try to avoid making it a racial issue - it's an important matter for Sarawak as a whole and so it is with a single mind we should approach it."

"We are going to consider this matter carefully and calmly because it concerns our

future and because we want everyone to have time to consider the advantages and disadvantages of living in closer accord with our neighbours. I want to hear all points of view. There is therefore no reason for you the Malays to be suspicious either of Government's intentions or the intentions of other racial groups in this matter."

### **All will share advantages**

The advantages brought about by closer association would be shared by all races, Sir Anthony then stressed. But, he pointed out, the fact was "some people make the most of their opportunities because they are alert and industrious and others do not." The Government Rubber Planting Scheme was a case in point. It had been excellently supported by the Chinese and Ibans but the Malays had generally lagged behind.

"Where there is strong leadership," he added, "the Malays have proved that they can do just as well if not better than others. At Engkilili in the Second Division, the Tua Kampong with energetic support has done an excellent job of clearing and planting on a co-operative basis. There is another very good Malay scheme at Senga up the Bintulu River in the Fourth Division. Those two enterprises are as good as any in the country."

Sir Anthony then declared: "The Malays cannot prosper if trade is bad for the Chinese or if the country is in political turmoil." The progress of the country depended on the co-operation of all races," he added.

### **Significance of Hari Raya.**

Earlier in his speech, Sir Anthony referred to the festival of Hari Raya and commended the Sarawak form of celebration which, he said, was shared and enjoyed by all.

He reminded his listeners of the importance he attached to the significance of Hari Raya to the future of Sarawak as well as the Malay community. By Muslim tradition it renewed the bonds of family and the unity of Islam and by Sarawak customs it strengthened the bonds of friendship between people of different races.

Sir Anthony next spoke to the "dangers of complacency." Although the people had much to be thankful for in the racial harmony which existed in Sarawak, he said, the danger

was that "we may forget how quickly relationships can sour, how quickly misunderstandings can grow when fed with jealousy, racial rivalry and mischief."

"We have surely seen in many countries around us a terrible warning to be on our guard against complacency," he declared.

It was the spirit of Hari Raya shared by Muslims and Christians, the spirit of Chinese New Year shared by Chinese and Malays and the spirit of Christmas shared by all mankind which would smooth away racial conflicts and prejudice which were bound to arise in any mixed community, he said adding.

"If we can keep this spirit alive we need fear no small differences of opinion over things like education or land or closer association or opportunities, and conversely, if we can recognise and silence the mischief maker who perhaps unknowingly spreads his infection, then we need fear no ill."

#### **'STUDY PLAN INTELLIGENTLY' - DATU BANDAR**

An appeal to the Malays of Sarawak to make an effort "to study and understand intelligently" the implications of the 'closer association' proposals was made by the Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha, in his Hari Raya message broadcast on Monday.

"This is an idea we cannot afford to neglect," said the Datu Bandar, who is also the Government's Adviser on Malay Affairs.

"Although we can exist alone today," he said, "the time may come when we might be so pressed by events and time that the three Borneo territories would be forced to unite and stand as one body in order to face and save ourselves from trouble and danger."

The world was today full of uncertainties, he added, and there was a good case for small countries associating themselves to form bigger and stronger nations. He instanced Jordan and Iraq which, he said, has been compelled to federate and pool their strength in order to maintain their security and existence.

#### **'Did not mention plan for federation'**

The proposals made by the Governor, the Datu Bandar continued, called for a closer association and stronger partnership of the three territories. There was no mention of any plan for a federation, such as the Federation of Malaya.

He felt closer association and stronger partnership would be beneficial if it could be extended to cover services other than those shared at present. In the case of internal security it would be better if it was centralised rather than carried out separately.

However, the Datu Bandar said he agreed with the majority of the Malays that the proposals should not be "dealt with hastily." The people should be given the opportunity to understand and study thoroughly the many aspects connected with the subject.

## **MAINTAIN FAMILY DISCIPLINE - GOVERNOR URGES CHINESE 1958**

In a New Year message broadcast on Tuesday, the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, made a strong appeal to the Chinese of the country to maintain the strength of their traditional family discipline. It was the only way of preventing their youth from becoming "an easy prey to the mischief-makers," he said.

Sir Anthony said that a serious decline in traditional family customs, which enshrined the age-old Chinese morality, would be tragic for the Chinese of Sarawak because of the morality's proven strength and virtue.

"It is good to see sons respecting their father and obeying his word. In this there is not only virtue, but stability," he declared.



## **Danger of youth drifting**

Sir Anthony stressed that he would like to see every Chinese family in Sarawak following China's greatest traditions in their family life. "Only by so doing could the Chinese youth of Sarawak be prevented from drifting aimlessly into the future, without purpose or ideals, and therefore filled with deep dissatisfaction about themselves."

"Dissatisfied and aimless, young people become an easy prey to the mischief-makers, the sellers of catchwords and political confidence tricks who are to be found in Sarawak, as they are in every country."

In his message Sir Anthony first referred to the significance of Chinese New Year's Day.

He said: "Chinese New Year is the day when, traditionally, Chinese from one side of China to the other, and indeed across the whole world, wherever Chinese are to be found, reassert their fundamental concept of civilisation, which is that the family is the foundation of all that is good, that it is the beginning of all things, and that it has no end."

"In the simple ceremonies of respect to the senior members of the family, which take place in nearly every Chinese home before dawn on the first day, the Chinese people symbolically begin the New Year by putting first things first."

"The first thing of all is the family, and the first duty of all is to give respect and care to those who have borne and fed you. This symbolic beginning of the year, re-enacted by every family in China throughout a score of centuries and more, has been one of the great reminders, by means of which the Chinese people have kept always before their eyes there noblest aspirations and most important duties."

## **'Sarawak celebration is delightful'**

Sir Anthony continued: "Here in Sarawak, due to various historical reasons, Chinese New Year's Day has come to have a significance that differs in some respects from the significance it has in China."

"Though the family aspect of it still remains, it has become equally, if not more,

important as a day on which to greet and receive friends, and, for those of us who are not Chinese, a day on which to go round and call on our Chinese friends to wish them the compliments of the season and a year of prosperity ahead."

"Personally I welcome this typically Sarawak change of making Chinese New Year's Day an occasion for visiting Chinese friends, and I am sure this must be a very general opinion. The way in which people of all races share each other's traditional festivals is a delightful custom, which makes Sarawak's political unity a personal reality."

## **Warning on weakening of family ties**

"What I welcome less is the decline of old traditional Chinese family customs that has inevitably accompanied these changes. I regret the weakening of family customs because in them is enshrined the age-old Chinese morality."

"A serious decline, in that would be tragic for the Chinese of Sarawak, because of that morality's proven strength and virtue. It is good to see sons respecting their father and obeying his word. In this there is not only virtue, but stability."

"Parents will forgive me if I lay part of the blame on them for the weakening of family ties and responsibilities which seems to me to be taking place in this country."

"I have in mind, when I speak of parents, one particular type of parent, with whom Sarawak is familiar. I refer to the man who came here from a remote village in South China many years ago. He made great sacrifices to pay his fare. He arrived with nothing. He could not read or write. He could not understand the languages of the country. He was an adventurous man, faced with many difficulties. He worked in a humble job, saved money, acquired a plot of land, planted rubber, sent to China for the girl he had married before his father and mother would allow him to leave the fatherland, and in due course had sons and daughters born and bred in Sarawak."

"He mixed, of course, with the people from the same part of China as himself. At first they were the only people he could talk to, the

only ones whose languages he could understand. Even Chinese from other parts of China were like foreigners to him."

"For the benefit of his own children and for his neighbours' children, he supported loyally the building and management of a school, in which his children could have the advantages he himself never had, and learn to read and write."

"Then the happy day came when his children were coming back from the school, full of the interesting things they had learnt at their lessons, and telling him — youngsters though they were — many things that were a

surprise to him. He became extra-ordinarily thankful for his children, and proud of them."

### **Became more indulgent to them**

"Without noticing what he was doing, he became more indulgent to them, letting them do more what they liked, pardoning their small faults, rebuking their mother when she wished to scold them. They were going to be educated people, and no one must stand in their way, certainly not an ignorant fellow like himself. They became spoilt children, with little discipline or sense of responsibility, with fine ideas about themselves and their future."

1958

## **SIR ANTHONY SPEAKS UP FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK**

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, spoke up for the Dayaks and other native people of the country when he inaugurated Radio Sarawak's Twin Network Service.

In line with the Chinese and Malays, he declared in his broadcast, they, too, were now advancing at an ever-increasing pace, for they were "rightly and strongly determined not to be left behind."

"Their energy, independence of mind and innate abilities will assuredly enable them to rapidly overcome the handicap of their late start, and they will add greatly to the strength and resilience of the nation we are building," he added.

And Sir Anthony had a word of a caution to make — he warned the more advanced sections of the people not to regard themselves as "better or superior" to the others whose progress had so far been slower.

### **"They did not have same opportunities"**

He said: "Here we are, at different stages of development, and those of us who consider ourselves more advanced must beware of thinking that we are better or superior in any

way to those whose progress has so far been slower only because they did not have the same opportunities."

He first instanced the Chinese, with their centuries of culture behind them and their realisation of the benefits of education.

"We have seen and admired over the years the determination with which they have opened schools for their children wherever they have settled. This they have done of their own free will, overcoming all difficulties and, until recently, with but scant financial aid or encouragement from Government," he said.

Referring to the Malays, Sir Anthony said: "They, too, have a long tradition of civilisation to look back upon."

"Their past glories are now being revived, and in the Independence of the Federation of Malaya and in the lead given there by their present Prime Minister (Tengku Abdul Rahman) we see a splendid example of their powers of statemanship, political foresight and tolerance — a good example for the Malays in Sarawak to ponder and follow."

Sir Anthony then declared: "The future will show the need for patience with and tolerance of the claims and rights of others."



"Both the Chinese and Malays should also think of the great bulk of the population of Sarawak — of the Dayaks, the Kayans, the Kenyahs and other kindred tribes."

## **An assurance**

So long as Sarawak was under the protection of Britain, he assured the people, it would be the policy of the Government to ensure in the future equality of gaining education, of opportunity and of wealth by all.

"During this period," Sir Anthony said, "the government will offer strong and just guidance, government if you like by fair umpire, who will see that the game is played properly and that no one is exploited or unjustly treated."

Sir Anthony also referred to the part "good broadcasting" could do for the people of Sarawak. It had, he added, the most important task of "encourage and strengthen the knowledge of and faith which have all in each other."

"This can be done in many ways," he said, "not the least be responsible discussion and exchange of opinions, by fair comment and criticism and by tolerant give-and-take which we all practice in our daily lives."

## **Tribute to Britain**

The progress of Radio Sarawak, he said, had been in accordance with popular tastes and public demand. The new service which afforded two simultaneous transmissions aimed at giving superior reception and an alternative choice of programmes, all of which were being considerably expanded.

Educational broadcasting to schools would also begin shortly and priority in this would probably be given to the rural native vernacular schools, where help was most needed.

Sir Anthony next paid a tribute to the British Government for the financial assistance needed in providing the extensions and equipment necessary for the increased broadcasting facilities. The total cost for this was over \$850,000.

He also praised the generous help received from Britain, Canada and Australia in providing higher professional training for

the local broadcasting staff through scholarships, fellowships and technical training courses.

Sir Anthony then added: "Radio Sarawak quite often suffers criticism of its work in the newspapers and through the many letters which are received."

"This criticism is welcomed because it is essential if the public's wishes are to be met with the spirit of enterprise and sense of service which we have now come to expect from Radio Sarawak."

"But I, too, would like to interpret public opinion and thank the Director and all his admirable staff for the excellent entertainment both serious and light they have given us during the years."

"I hope many of my listeners will accept the Director's invitation to pay a visit to Radio Sarawak. You will see an excellent building and much intricate machinery, but you will also see what good leadership, real team spirit, determination and hard work can achieve."

"Some people in Sarawak may not appreciate our good fortune because they have not been subjected to the drabness, the poor taste and the lack of imagination which so often distinguish the programmes of services of a similar size or scope."

## **A reputation to maintain**

"Radio Sarawak has acquired a reputation which it is important to maintain. In 1954 I enjoined the Service to 'speak the words of Truth and Tolerance and Friendship to all.' My hopes have not been disappointed, and a precedent has been set which I believe has embalmed the high principle involved. The Government will be more than satisfied for the effort and the money expended if Radio Sarawak becomes a genuine mirror of public opinion and encourages the peoples of this country to know each other better."



# **'GIVE HELPING HAND TO WEAK AND BACKWARD'-GOVERNOR URGES CHINESE 'NO HARMONY IN SARAWAK IF THERE IS WIDE DISPARITY OF WEALTH AND LEARNING'- IN 1959**

"THE GOVERNOR of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, in his New Year Message broadcast to the Chinese community spoke of the great need to give a helping hand to the weak and the backward people of the country until a common high standard of living and education had been achieved.

In this, he said, the Chinese could make the greatest contribution and, therefore, perhaps, the greatest sacrifices.

"There can be no real happiness or harmony in our Sarawak family," declared Sir Anthony, "if there is a wide disparity of wealth and learning. Poverty and ignorance breed dangerous frustrations which can explode in savage retaliation."

"We have all seen this happen many times before in other countries, in Europe and in the East. We must and will avoid it here in Sarawak."

"We have here the traditions, the goodwill and every opportunity which a stable Government offers to build a prosperous, successful and happy nation, provided we recognise that the future will require of us all a conscious effort to understand the feelings and convictions and aspirations of others."

The Message was recorded by Radio Sarawak just before the Governor left for a visit to Brunei and later Sibu where he spent the Chinese New Year. Translations of it were read in several Chinese dialects and in Malay and Iban as well.

## **Hospitality praised**

Earlier in his Message Sir Anthony stated that it would be the last New Year he would be spending among the Chinese as Governor and said that the pleasure he had always derived from their "unvarying hospitality and

kindness" was therefore on this occasion touched with sadness.

He added: "You and I have spent nine peaceful and very happy years together during which time Sarawak has made great material progress. These years have been unmarred by any form of strife and our ancient traditions of tranquility and concord have been maintained and I hope strengthened. I am very thankful for this and I know you and all the people in Sarawak are proud of our record too."

"It is customary to count our blessings at a season of happiness and goodwill like this because they provide the basis of our confidence in the future but it is also wise at the New Year to do a little stocktaking as well and see how we can the better face the problems of the coming year."

"It is true that 1958 was not a year of great commercial prosperity. By comparison with my early years in Sarawak it was rather lean. This is due to circumstances over which we have little control and we can but hope that the prices of our major exports will hereafter improve."

"You have in the past often experienced similar fluctuations in our fortunes. For you Chinese have been in Sarawak for many generations and have made a very contribution to the prosperity we at present enjoy."

## **Resilience and adaptability**

"One of the most outstanding of your characteristics is your resilience and adaptability. You came here as strangers long ago to a land which was very different to your own. You had little more than the clothes you wore. You could not speak the language of

this country: you knew nothing of its customs: but your vigour and adaptability quickly made you an essential part of the community and showed how best you could contribute to Sarawak's progress."

He added: "It is interesting to recall that as long ago as 1850 the first sago refinery was opened in Kuching by Chinese. In 1878 the Rajah allocated land to certain Chinese merchants so that they could experiment with the cultivation of pepper. You found gold and exploited it at Bau. You brought rubber from Malaya and in very many ways you demonstrated the commercial promise of this country.

"Your genius for taking the long view in trade and politics is equally required today. We cannot rely for always on the old methods of earning our living. But by exercising those great virtues of industry, initiative and perseverance which everybody so particularly admires in the Chinese, I know Sarawak will develop its economy with that vigorous pioneering spirit which has served us all so well in the past."

### **Example will be followed**

"I imagine such ideas and plans are among your New Year's resolutions and I am sure your initiative and enterprise will be increasingly followed by your countrymen of other races."

Sir Anthony continued: "In the field of politics as well, a sensitive and buoyant approach to modern concepts, to new pressures, to the aspirations of a new generation here in Sarawak is required. In Sarawak the Chinese have got to take on new responsibilities and new obligations."

"When in 1867 the Rajah established the General Council to advise him on affairs of state, no Chinese were included in that body. It was not in fact until 1941 when the Third Rajah brought in his Constitution that the Chinese were represented - then out of a total membership of 44 in Council Negeri four were Chinese."

"Today you are much more strongly represented, both in Council and in Supreme Council. In Local Government you are now playing a very prominent part. In all the local authorities and municipalities in Sarawak the Chinese are represented by 159 members, the

Malays by 102 members, and the Sea Dayaks by 196 members. So you see the whole status of the Chinese in Sarawak has changed radically in quite a short time.

### **No room for divided loyalties**

"I know most of you are conscious of this change and appreciate that for better or for worse you have married into this family and the whole relationship has changed to meet the challenge of these new family responsibilities. You are no longer strangers in a strange land; this country you now share with others; it is in fact your motherland and those who share its destiny with you are your brothers."

Sir Anthony then declared: "There is no room any longer for divided loyalties. We all know there are differences between the races in this country, and often they are overstressed, but they are in fact of small account when considered alongside the wide range of interests, of advantages of problems, of dangers you share."

"A new spirit of compromise, of tolerance, of co-operation, and a more generous understanding of each other's various points of view is required by us all."

### **'Live up to new civic responsibilities'**

"You know well that when you are on to a good thing, you should stick to it and back it for all you are worth. Sarawak offers you security in a peaceful environment."

"In this country enterprise and opportunity can flourish, assisted and protected by an honest and an efficient administration. We live by the rule of law. There is freedom and justice assured for all without regard to class or race or creed. There are some who lag behind others in education or health, in wisdom or in riches and it is in all our interests to give a helping hand to the weak and the backward until a common high standard of living and education has been achieved. In this the Chinese can make the greatest contribution of all and therefore perhaps the greatest sacrifices."

Sir Anthony then hoped that the Chinese would begin their New Year resolved to live up to their new civic responsibilities and to honour old traditions.

# **HARI RAYA PUASA MESSAGE O.A.G. STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF RACIAL HARMONY**

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. A.R. Snelus, broadcast over Radio Sarawak on Thursday, April 9, 1958, the following message of greeting to the Malay Community of Sarawak on the occasion of Hari Raya Puasa.

"In the absence of the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, from Sarawak I welcome this opportunity of saying a few words to all Muslims of this country on the occasion of this Hari Raya festival. It is a gay and happy time for all of us as we go around from house to house calling upon our Muslim friends and wishing them health and prosperity for the coming year. It is an occasion when the kampongs are a glorious mass of bright colours, with the girls dressed in all their brilliant finery and the youths robed in strikingly coloured sarong and baju or immaculate new suits. It is indeed a joyous occasion which fills our hearts with gladness."

"But it is also an event which has a special significance for the devout Muslims who have kept the fast throughout the previous month. For it denotes the end of the stern testing period when all your powers of self-discipline had to be brought into operation. This is a fine exercise in will-power and self restraint which must bring great moral benefits to all who practise it. And at the end of the month you who have succeeded in enduring and passing the test are most certainly entitled to hold up your heads anew and pat yourselves on the back. For you have gained in moral stature and you can look forward to the coming year with additional confidence, secure in the knowledge that you have trained your body to obey your will."

"As a result of this you are well qualified to go to your neighbour and to say with all sincerity: 'Forgive me for what occurred in the past, let bygones be bygones and let us start this year afresh with a new determination to be good friends hence forward.'"

## **Mutual tolerance and understanding**

And this is the attitude that I would like to see adopted and maintained not only between all Malays, but between Malays and Chinese and Dayaks — and all others races inhabiting this country. Therefore, let us at this time of goodwill to all make fresh resolutions to maintain and extend our friendship with all races. Let us determine to get to know neighbours better, to learn and to understand their way of life, their fears and their aspirations.

Only thus, by mutual tolerance and understanding, by a mingling and adaptation of all that is best in the life of all the races that have made this country their home, shall be able to forge a real Sarawak nation. But let there be no mistake, it is no easy task that we have set ourselves; it requires a conscious effort on the part of all of us. It is no use sitting back and adopting a passive attitude, we must go out and make a positive approach to find out what the other fellow is thinking and to see how we can help him.

"Superficially, it is true, we here in Sarawak are still blessed with racial harmony, as was so splendidly evidenced during the recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince Philip. But we cannot afford to be complacent about this. There are, as some of the deeper thinking amongst you will know, signs of strains and stresses beneath the surface which must be put right before a big crack appears in our present friendly relations. I want you to think about this and to ponder what you, each one of you, can do to mend matters and to ensure that these friendly relations continue. There must of course be give and take. Not only must we try to understand the other fellow's point of view and get him to see our point of view, but we must strive to ensure that both are respected. In this way we shall build up and maintain, as we march together along the road of progress and development, a truly harmonious multi-racial society."



## A special word to the Malay people

"Finally, I would not wish to miss this opportunity of giving a word of advice and encouragement to my friends, the Malays. You will have noticed that the world around us is moving faster every day and that developments of every sort are proceeding space here in Sarawak. This is right and proper, and the clock cannot now be put back."

"I want you, my friends, to realise that the times have changed and it is no use any longer sitting back and hoping that Allah or a benevolent Rajah will provide for you. You must join in the race or you will find

yourselves overtaken by other energetic but presently more backward peoples. This means that you must work harder and strive always to improve your lot; for there is nobody else who can do it for you. I know that there are some amongst you who appreciate this and who have displayed the finest qualities of energy, determination and ability. I hope that all of you who listen to me will follow the admirable lead that has already been given you by these few. You Malays will then take your rightful place in our society."

"I wish you all a very happy time during this festive period and may you be blessed with good health and prosperity during the year ahead."

# POLITICAL PARTIES IN SARAWAK

## The Governor's speech at Miri

His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G., visited Miri in May 1959 and addressed the Divisional Advisory Council of the Fourth Division. The main topic of the Governor's very significant speech is the possible formation of political parties in Sarawak - a matter of great importance and one now under lively public discussion.

We give below the full text of Sir Anthony's speech:

"I am very glad to have been given this opportunity to address this Divisional Advisory Council and I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for this kind invitation. The Fourth Division has been making steady progress during the last few years. Your local authorities are well established and are increasingly providing the people with the amenities they require. Your Council Negeri members make sure that the Central Government in Kuching do not overlook the aspirations and needs of this important part of Sarawak."

"But first I would like to congratulate you all on the success of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit. Every district contributed in equal

measure and with equal success. I am sure that nowhere in Borneo or indeed anywhere else in his world tour did His Royal Highness receive a warmer and more loyal welcome. The decorations of the streets in Miri, the great crowds, the programme of dancing which was nowhere excelled, made a memorable occasion. I hope you enjoyed it all as much as your guests did. I know it meant a great deal of work for many people, the planning was excellent and the co-operation of the public was 100 per cent. The occasion was one I know which will remain long in our memories and in the memories of your children but its significance locally should not be overlooked - an example of successful co-operation between all communities working together with a single mind and with a single objective."

"Miri has been figuring quite a bit in the newspaper recently the issue being whether or not municipal elections should be held this year or later. I was very glad to note the statesman-like speeches of your Council Negeri members and the general tone of quiet common sense and also consideration for the point of view of others on this subject, which is one which can cause acute controversy."

"I am glad you made up your minds what to do and did not allow outside pressure to influence you unduly. You are after all the best judges of public opinion in Miri. Of course we all want to progress politically but you must be allowed to go at your own pace and not be subjected to violent pushes from behind which are only likely to upset your equilibrium."

"I trust the Miri District will shortly complete the organisation of local authorities to cover all communities in the District; it would be a good thing if this was done before you hold your Urban District Council elections.

"The Baram District and the Bintulu District have supported the Government schemes for replanting of rubber in a most praise worthy and encouraging way, indeed the Director of Agriculture has informed me that some of the schemes he has seen in the Fourth Division are the best in the country. I hope the farmers of the Bintulu District will support the Coconut Scheme with the same energy and success - this is a very useful crop which should add greatly to their standard of living. I am also very glad to hear that the Marudi Waterworks is nearing completion."

### **The Political Future**

"I would like to talk for a little while this morning about one important aspect of Sarawak's political future. You may have seen in the newspapers or heard from your friends that there has been a great deal of talk in Kuching about party politics and about the formation of political parties. There are of course many different points of view but I feel that I should give you what advice I can not only as Governor but as a friend of some years standing."

"It is natural in any democratic system of Government for people with similar ideas to associate together and try to make their views not only known to, but acted upon, by the Government by using their combined united strength. These associations of people with similar views exist in every society and they are natural and healthy. These associations may develop in time into political parties, each having a distinctive name. You cannot have an effective party unless it has a policy or a political programme and the necessary

discipline among its members to see that its policy is carried out. Unfortunately if one group of people form a party you can be sure that there will be others who do not agree with their ideas and who will form another party in opposition to the first. In fact you cannot have only one party and you cannot therefore have only one policy or one political programme." You will find that the policy of the one party will not be wholly good and the policy of the other party will not be wholly bad - they will in fact both have good and bad points but the members, whatever their consciences may say, will have to support loyally the whole of their party's programme, in fact they will no longer be men of independent judgement. What does the average man in the street want when he goes to the polls? Surely he wants to be represented by a man in whose judgement and integrity he has faith. He wants a man who will exercise his judgement fearlessly for the good of the voter and the community. In very large communities or countries it is probably necessary to govern through parties because everyone cannot have his own independent views; it would be difficult to get anything done. In the British Parliament there are over 600 members and some organisation is necessary to sort out the views of the members and give them coherence but here we must consider this matter from our own local Sarawak point of view.

"For the time being I suggest that we want the best men available in our Divisional Councils and in our Council Negeri; men who will exercise their own independent judgement for their people irrespective of race, party or the discipline and dictates of a party machine."

"As I have very frequently said at various times in Sarawak, our future happiness and prosperity depend principally on one thing racial unity. Anything that tends to divide us as a nation is bad, fundamentally bad, and anything that tends to draw us together, iron out our differences of race, opportunity or wealth is good. What we are trying to do is to raise standards of living, education and health to a common high level which means of course that the rural or backward areas must have a helping hand. To be frank, more money must be spent on them and that at the expense of the more advanced urban areas. It

is not of course a question of favouring one race or another but it is a question of levelling up our general standards of living. We will never have a united contented people if there are great differences of wealth and educational and economic opportunity. It is therefore essential that party politics should not cause further divisions in our community but should have a unifying and binding effect. If a party tends to be dominated by one race or one class, be it labour or shopkeeper, or if it is dominated by urban interests, or if it should make one segment of the community feel at a disadvantage in comparison with other people, it may have a disintegrating effect on our community. This is a point which I hope those who advocate party politics will have in mind."

"I have been your Governor for over nine years and shortly another will take my place. I feel that as a friend I should give you what I believe to be good advice even though it may be unpopular in some quarters. I frankly doubt if political parties at the present stage of development will spell faster progress in this small country and in our relatively small com-

munities like Miri. If party politics bring with them the vicious mud-slinging and the violation of our ordinary civilized standards of behaviour which unfortunately we witness elsewhere, then we in Sarawak can do without this particular form of democratic expression. If however political associations can be so formed and their affairs so conducted that they will strengthen the people's voice in the Councils of Government and if they can be made a unifying force guided solely by consideration of the public weal and without consideration of party power and prestige then I am all for them. But let us follow our own particular star and not another's. Our history has been unique and somehow we have managed to work things out for ourselves, very sensibly and with success and, best of all, together. We have not needed to copy other people and we don't need to do so to day."

"I have every confidence that Sarawak will find its own good solution to these problems as she has in the past and will continue to set an example to others of friendliness and good sense, and in the integrity and the devotion of those who serve her interests."

## The Borneo Co., Ltd.



*The buildings of the new Borneo Company Ltd, and the B.C.L. bungalow all facing the water front along Thompson Road (now known as Tuanku Abdul Rahman Road) made up the land mark of Kuching for more than a century.*





*The B.C.L. godown along the Sarawak River.*

His Highness, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, third Rajah of Sarawak, recently wrote: "So strong was the link between the State of Sarawak and The Borneo Company in the very early days that Sarawak and Borneo Company were almost synonymous terms."

The Centenary of the Company, which is being celebrated in Kuching, and elsewhere in the East later this month, provides the occasion for recalling the romantic early days of Sarawak.

### **Romantic Early Days**

James Brooke had been established in Sarawak, as Rajah, for fifteen years, and the stable Government he gave to the country — at that time Sarawak consisted of what is now the 1st Division only — attracted the commercial interest of merchants in Singapore. Among these are MacEwen & Company whose Manager in Singapore was John Harvey. With the strong backing of the Rajah and the co-operation of the Directors of MacEwen & Company, The Borneo Company was founded in London in 1856 with the primary object of trading with Sarawak, and of absorbing MacEwen & Company. It is interesting to learn that a descendant of the original MacEwen, Ian MacEwen, is on the London Board today.

### **HARD GOING**

It was said by the first Rajah that in bringing civilization to wild parts, the most important things were law and order: the next were religion and commerce. Certainly the Government needed revenue to achieve the development of a country long torn by civil strife and headhunting. Equally certainly it was hard going in those early days to start a thriving commerce from practically nothing.

The main trade in those days was in Antimony, a metal more prized then than now. The Company's earliest activities were connected with mining Antimony.

However, the Company had barely started its career when it met a disaster which might well have destroyed it at the outset. The rebellion by the Bau gold-miners in 1857 caught Kuching by surprise, captured the town and burnt the Rajah's residence, the Rajah himself barely escaping down-river. It was the most timely arrival of the Company's steamer, the "Sir James Brooke", which turned the tide. With the aid of its guns the town was recaptured and the trouble brought under control.

### **WORST OVER**

For another ten or twelve years the fortunes of Sarawak and of B.C.L. continued to be poor. The Rajah's personal fortune was exhausted, and aid from the Company was valuable in helping to carry the young country until the slow development of sago, pepper and gambier industries established the finances on a sounder footing. By 1868 the worst was over, though at no time during the first 40 years did the Company make much profit. Among the early ventures of those days are timber — the first of a number of unsuccessful attempts to develop the forest resources of Sarawak.

A further development came with the discovery of cinnabar (mercury) ore at Tegora in 1867. This then was largely the history of B.C.L. for the remainder of the century — antimony, mercury and sporadic efforts to develop coal; pepper, sago, gambier and gutta percha; the Company was Banker for the Government and developed the regular



*Picture shows on the left the Borneo Company Ltd building and on the right the building of the Brooke Company Limited, sometime in 1949.*

shipping connection with Singapore, that subsequently became the Sarawak Steamship Co. of today.

## FORMATIVE YEARS

These forty years were the formative years, commercially as well as politically, in the history of Sarawak. The third Rajah has recently written in the preface to a book on B.C.L.'s history:

"I feel that it is nowadays very little realised what a tremendous help the Borneo Company was when Sarawak was fighting its way into existence; and I would add that the present day progress and prosperity of the Country can be clearly traced to the great efforts of this Company in those early days, when capital outlay and unremitting labour reaped no spectacular reward."

B.C.L.'s name is, or used to be, associated more with gold than anything else, but in fact the Company did not operate gold in a large way till the present century. The gold in Upper Sarawak had been worked for a long time by Chinese, but it appears in a very fine state and was never highly remunerative, the only workable because of the extreme industriousness and poor living standard of the miners. In 1884 B.C.L. bought out the biggest, and one of the few remaining, Chinese Kongsis, the Shak Lak Mun, and started to operate the mines at Bau and Bidi. However it was not till thirteen years later (1897) when the cyanide process was discovered, that the extraction of Bau gold became really an economic proposition and it was from 1897 to 1923 that mining at Bau was

at its peak. In that year unprecedented floods caused a river to burst its banks, and to flood Tai Parit, leaving the lake that exists today. How many of those who went to the Bau Regatta recently realised they were literally standing — or floating on a gold mine?

When Tai Parit closed, it had yielded close to half a million ounces of fine gold, worth some £2½ million. Today it would be worth nearer £6 million. Until the discovery of oil, this gold mine was by far the biggest single venture to be established in Sarawak, and there is no doubt it greatly helped to consolidate the finances of both the country and the Company.

## EXPANSION

Meanwhile the Company had spread to Singapore, Malaya, Siam, Indonesia, India, Hongkong and Shanghai. The last four branches have long been closed, but Singapore, Malaya and Siam flourish, and the Company has now opened a venture in Canada. Among the other branches, the one with the most colourful history is undoubtedly Bangkok. The Borneo Company Siam was a country with many centuries of culture behind it, and a deep mistrust of outside influences. In 1851 however, the reigning King died and was succeeded by one who took a more enlightened view. The new King, known generally as King Mongkut, proved interested in opening his country to trade and foreign ideas, and from the earliest days, right back to the time of MacEwen & Company, B.C.L. was on terms of closest friendship with the Royal Family, and the Government of Siam, or Thailand as it is now known.





*The Tai Parit (Blue Lake).*

Those who are familiar with the story "Anna and the King of Siam" will be interested to know that Anna Leonowens was engaged by the B.C.L. Manager, Singapore, in 1862, as a governess for King Mongkut's children, at the request of the King for a suitable teacher. The original letter from the King to William Adamson, in Singapore, written on his own writing, is still among the Company's archives in London.

## **Second Disaster And Recover**

After the first world war there followed a period of expansion, particularly in Malaya and Siam, which was in turn followed by the slump of the 1930's. The East was recovering from this when there occurred the second disaster which nearly extinguished the Company. In the war with Japan B.C.L. lost nearly everything. Stocks to the value of millions of dollars were lost irretrievably. Much of its property was damaged beyond repair. Its staff was for most part interned or killed in the fighting. There emerged in 1945 the skeleton of what had been a healthy and flourishing concern, with much of its staff dispersed, its property lost and its funds almost exhausted. It is upon these bare bones that the Company has rebuilt itself since the war. Before the war, for many years, the shareholders received little or no return in the way of dividends. During the war they saw their capital apparently lost for good. At one time the £1 shares fell as low as two or three shillings. But, when a wave of prosperity surged over the East after the war, those who were ready, and possessed the means and the know how, came in on the crest of it and recovery was faster than most could have thought possible.

B.C.L. started in 1856 with capital of £60,000. In 1956 its capital is \$2 million and its fixed and current assets are valued at £7½ million, with 12 branches in Borneo, five in Malaya and three in Siam. Among its subsidiaries are Borneo Motors, Orchard Motors, Alexandra Brickworks, Alexandra Brick & Tile Co., (Canada) Ltd., Duncan Roberts, Butler & Webster, Societe Anonyme Belge pour le Commerce et l'Industrie Au Siam, Austral Timber Co., Haboko Tea Co., Singapore Plywood Company.

## **FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE**

The Company's trading has changed with the times. But B.C.L. still retains its faith in the future of Borneo, and in particular of Sarawak, where it began its days. Since the war a large part of its profits has been put back into the country in the form of capital expenditure and commercial ventures, to the extent of millions of dollars. Its current building programme in Borneo, under construction during 1956, alone exceeds \$1 million and its associated Company, Borneo Motors, already established in Jesselton and Kuala Belait, expects to start building in Kuching this year.

The present Chairman, Mr. C.R. Akers, is the sixth Chairman of the Board of Directors since the present Directors are Messrs. A.R. Malcolm, K.H. Simpson, R.A. Henderson, J.R. Grey and I.L. MacEwen, and it is interesting to note that in 100 years ahead there have been only 30 Directors of the Company. The continuity of Management that this implies may perhaps be the reason why B.C.L. has survived its early hazard and achieved a dimension which is far beyond the dreams of its founders.





*The Borneo Company Ltd buildings as seen from Main Bazaar Kuching in the year 1958.*

## **New Premises Opened Climax To Celebration**

A large gathering witnessed Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Sarawak, perform the opening ceremony of the new premises of The Borneo Company Limited at Thompson Road last Wednesday evening — the climax of the three-day celebrations in Kuching on the occasion of the Company's Centenary.

The ceremony was also graced by the presence of distinguished officials, Church dignitaries and the Indonesian Consul General, and Mrs. Kartowisastro and his party who were on a brief visit to Kuching.

A Cocktail party, which was to be held on the lawn of Bukit Mata Kuching after the opening ceremony, had to be held in the premises of the Company because of the inclement weather.

Mr. C.R. Akers, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Borneo Company Limited, who has come to Sarawak specially to take part in the celebrations on this great occasion, said that Sir Anthony Abell had done them a great honour by coming to declare the new premises of the Company open that evening.

Mr. Akers added that since they commenced to trade one hundred years ago as Merchant Venturers in a humble way in Sarawak, this country had emerged from the obscurity in which it was veiled.

### **PLAYED A PART**

He continued: "With the development and progress which has taken place over the years, we have played our part. Our business has grown until our premises here in Kuching have become quite inadequate."

"We have therefore taken steps to enlarge and modernise these premises so that we now have a new building which I hope is deemed worthy of this City."

After his address Mr. Akers then called upon Sir Anthony to declare the premises open.

### **NEW CHAPTER OPENED**

Sir Anthony Abell, before declaring the new building open, said that by right His Highness the Rajah should be where he was to congratulate his old friends and fellow campaigners, and to thank the present representatives of the Company for their good services to his family and to this country, for the determination and courage with which they supported the Government of Sarawak through its many vicissitudes.

While it is unfortunately not fashionable nowadays to pay tribute to private enterprise for its contribution to the general welfare of a country, Sir Anthony continued, that is not good reason for forgetting that the Rajahs and

the BCL had to face together the hazards of a new enterprise, through rebellions and two wars, quarrels and misunderstandings, generally short of capital, often short of friends they faced together the task of building a prosperous Sarawak.

"Now a new chapter has opened. It is usual for the unfortunate individual who has to make a speech on this occasion to talk of this building being a concrete symbol of our faith in the future and the like. I shall not say that not because it is not true but because it is unnecessary. The record of the BCL in the old days and its expansion since then has shown that this company has always had complete faith on the ultimate destiny of this country. I hope now in this new chapter, the company will also retain its confidence in and its friendly association with the government of today and continue to lend its support and its

active assistance within the development of this country and on its political advancement. I hope you will not desert the field of politics where your experience and the position you hold in the community can contribute so much in these formative years."

"I can assure you Mr. Chairman that this government wishes earnestly to preserve its friendly association with your company and to encourage private enterprise to develop the resources of the country."

"It remains for me on behalf of us all to wish the BCL many successes in the future — to wish them the good fortune to work with a government which will maintain law and order and to allow them to give their best service to the community and enjoying the due reward of their enterprise and the position which the last hundred years have earned them."

18th October, 1956

## **Mammoth Centenary Dinner**

### **Proud History And Tradition**

#### **WORTHY OF HERITAGE**

"As Chairman of The Borneo Co. Ltd., I can state that we are still Merchant Venturers and are upholding our traditions and are worthy of our Heritage and are strengthening and developing everyday our business, not only in Sarawak, but throughout British Borneo and we look forward to the future with confidence."

"On this Centenary occasion there is one point which I should like to record and emphasise. We recognise with gratitude the debt we owe to our distributors and dealers who have supported this Company so loyally for so many years. In many cases our connection goes back to Fathers and Grandfathers and I would like to say how much we appreciate the support and co-operation you have given us, and I hope we shall continue to co-operate together to our mutual profit for many years to come. I like to think that at the next Centenary Celebrations it will be to your sons and grandsons that my

successor will be talking."

"There are no doubt difficult times ahead but I am sure that if we continue to co-operate together as we have done in the past we shall not only overcome all difficulties but increase the trade we have developed so happily together."

At the conclusion of his speech Mr. Akers thanked all those for coming to the dinner to help them in their Celebrations.

#### **ON BEHALF OF GUESTS**

Mr. Tan Kui Choon, speaking on behalf of the distributors, dealers and other guests paid tribute to The Borneo Company Limited for its reputation, accomplishments and for attaining its Centenary.

Mr. Tan said that it was his pleasant duty to give the toast of The Borneo Company — a duty which was in itself an honour and one in which he was confident of the cordial support of everyone present.

He added: "On this historical and special event of the year, it is indeed a very great occasion to us to be invited to this party to celebrate the centenary of The Borneo Company Limited."

"I hope that I am right in saying that no other business house here has yet attained this old age of 100 years and to accomplish such ripe age and its reputation therefore speaks for itself and its good name automatically goes down to the history of Sarawak."

"From the earliest days The Borneo Company has played a leading part in the development of the country, and this pioneering work is always looked upon as a great achievement."

"The Company's Chairman, Mr. Akers, came out all the way from United Kingdom to act as host to us and to whom we want to express our grateful thanks for the kind hospitality extended to us and to say that we hope our business relations with the Borneo Company Limited will always be cordial and friendly for our mutual benefit and for the progress of this country."

"In concluding my short speech, I trust firmly in your hearty and unanimous concurrence in the toast when I call upon you Gentlemen, to drink to the continued success and prosperity of the Borneo Company Limited coupled with the name of Mr. Akers and his Directors, and our joy and our good wishes be with you in your Centenary celebrations."

In his address to the gathering before Dinner, Mr. Akers said that as the Chairman of The Borneo Company Limited, he was its mouthpiece that night to say a few words about their fine old Company on this great occasion of the celebration of their Centenary.

#### FORTUNES CLOSELY LINKED.

Mr. Akers continued: "We, of The Borneo Co., Ltd., have a history and tradition of which we are justly proud, particularly in Sarawak, where for one hundred years our activities have been so closely linked with the fortunes of the country and where we have worked so harmoniously with its Administration and taken a prominent part in its development and progress."

"We were formed as a Company to carry on the business of Merchant Venturers in distant lands and to employ our Capital in establishing organisations which would help in the development of the resources of the countries where we settled, to the mutual advantage of the inhabitants of the country and ourselves."

"Here in Sarawak and British Borneo we can justly claim to have achieved this object."

"Our Heritage carries with it great responsibilities. A History and Tradition such as ours has only been built up slowly and with much trial and tribulation. By devotion, faith, courage and determination, by honest straightforward methods of trading and insistence that "our Word is Bond" gradually our Company has built up a reputation of Trust and Confidence which is accepted by all."

"This is the Heritage we are celebrating today."

An appreciation of the support and co-operation which the local distributors and dealers have given to the Borneo Company Limited for so many years was expressed by Mr. C.R. Akers, Chairman of the Company, at a Chinese Dinner held at the Aurora Hotel on the occasion of the celebration of the Centenary of the Company last Tuesday evening.

The Dinner was attended by more than four hundred people - local distributors, dealers and members of the staff of the Company. It was one of the biggest gathering of businessmen and merchants at any one sitting at dinner at the Aurora since its opening last year. To cope with the large number of diners both the Dining Room and the Chinese Restaurant were used.







*The Borneo Company Limited building on Court House Road were built in 1928 in the shophouse style for three units.*



*The building as seen in 1939.*

19th October, 1956

(BY C. MATHEWS)

## Centenary Celebrations In Sibü

100 years of service in a country like Sarawak, with its low-lying swamps and heat, not to mention the vicissitudes, trials and tribulations of the earlier days, is indeed worthy of commemoration. So it is that The Borneo Co., Ltd., are proud to celebrate this Centenary in every office in Malaya and Sarawak.

Celebrations in Sibü began, with a burst and spluttering of fire crackers, on the 19th night. Over 200 guests were entertained at a Reception in the Sibü Recreation Club. Mr. C.R. Akers, the Chairman of the Board of Directors in London, arrived on Friday to attend all functions.

## \$200,000 BUILDING

What could be more fitting than the opening of absolutely new office premises to commemorate a Centenary. The formal opening took place the following morning at 11.30 A.M. About 300 guests were present.

The Manager, Mr. J.H. Henderson, introduced the Chairman, Mr. C.R. Akers. In his opening speech Mr. Akers said that the Branch Office of The Borneo Co., Ltd., was opened in 1913. During the War (1915-1918), the Office was closed, and it was only in 1927 that it was reopened in temporary offices and godowns (on Channel Road).

Land for the erection of a stone building was then obtained on Court House Road — the building that will soon be vacated.

Mr. Akers then commented on the Sibü of that time:

"Sibü at that time was very different to what it is today. There were no water mains or electricity, and the roads were narrow muddy lanes. Richshaws were the only means of transport."

"Before the completion of our Court House Road building, came the devastating fire which many will remember — which destroyed the whole town." (1928)

"But since those days, Sibü has expanded and developed until today it is an important commercial centre of Sarawak. In fact, there are some, I understand, who think it is the most important."

He said that their trade in Sibü had also expanded and developed with the growth of the town, and it had become necessary to build this fine, new building.

He concluded, "It is indeed fitting that this ceremony of opening these new premises should take place in this our Centenary Year as it is, I feel, true evidence that we are worthy of our heritage and that our Company still maintains its youthful vigour and looks forward to the future with confidence."

Mr. Akers then thanked those present for their assistance in the ceremony.

A loud burst of fire crackers declared that the building was now open.



*The new Borneo Company Ltd. building along Island Road, Sibü.*

## THE SITE

The \$200,000 building, tastefully decorated for the ceremony, is situated on Island Road and faces the town. On the opposite of the road is the Hoover Memorial School. Behind it, separated by a road, are Government Godowns facing the river.

About 2 years ago, the Government, in its development scheme, decided to take over the old premises on Court House Road and transform them into godowns. Negotiations began and the present site of the new building was selected. The old premises, facing the river, were conveniently situated in front of the wharf, and goods could be unloaded directly into the Company's godowns. The new premises have not lost much in advantage as they are only 50 yards further back and the goods can be unloaded

almost directly onto the backyard. This is a neater arrangement than the previous one as the office front and premises are in no way affected, or cluttered up.

## THE DESIGN OF THE BUILDING

The construction of the building began in November/December of last year. It was completed in time for the opening.

Adjacent to this building, the Sarawak Steamship Co. Ltd.'s premises are still under construction, and next to them will be the Sarawak Electricity Supply Co.'s offices. The 3 offices will make up a block on completion. The outer design is that of the usual type of office premises to be seen in Singapore, but it is the first of its kind here.

The building consists of a ground floor and a top floor. In front are the showrooms with glass panelling. 2 huge doors shut off from the public view the godown space in the centre. To the left of the godown is the Store Keeper's office and adjoining that, the ammunition room and match store which have been specially constructed of reinforced concrete. At the back is an open yard enclosed by a neat chain-link fencing, with big gates to permit the entry of vehicles.

In the showrooms have already been placed 2 cars — the Vauxhall and Austin — on either side of a short staircase which leads up to a landing. From this diverge two staircases in opposite directions, taking you to the top floor where the offices will be.

The construction of this building has a certain significance. The premises on Court House Road were built in 3 units, in the shophouse style, because expectations and prospects were uncertain in 1928, and if it was decided to close the office, the building could be disposed of easily. The construction of the new premises indicates far more confidence in future commercial developments here, and a stable Government. It also means that profitable trading has far transcended original expectations.

Although it is a Branch Office of a Company 100 years old. The Borneo Co., Ltd., here is organised on modern, efficient lines. Departmental and office management are handled by one Manager, Mr. J.H.

Henderson, Departmental Managers and Assistants are all Europeans. There are about 400 local employees. The number would be greater if it were not for the fact that the Timber Department employs contractors. The employees are of all races — Chinese, Malays, Dayaks, Melanaus, Ibans, Kayans and Indians. There are 5 women employed on the clerical staff.

## 600 FOR DINNER

On Saturday evening, lights blazed from a string of bulbs in the front of the new premises and men swarmed up the front stairs. These were the 600 dealers who had been invited to a Dinner Party given specially for them. It was an all-men's party without a single woman present.

In his dinner speech, the Chairman, after touching briefly on the Company's part in the expansion of Sarawak, said, "Our Company has prospered here because we have not feared to take risks. We have given service, traded honestly and with integrity, and maintained the good name of The Borneo Co., Ltd.."

Mr. Wong Sing Kheng, M.B.E. of Chop Hock Chiong, then toasted The Borneo Company's continuous prosperity and spoke on behalf of the dealers.

Mr. Wong Sing Kheng said that it was an honour to take part in the Centenary celebrations. He believed that the success of the Borneo Co., Ltd., could be attributed to the resourcefulness of the Board of Directors and Managers; the co-operation of their staff; their keen desire for expansion and the characteristic commercial ability of the Englishman.

He continued. "With 200,000 square miles of territory and a population of over 600,000 in Sarawak, I frankly declare that everyone everywhere, more or less, has been using goods delivered by the Borneo Company and, of course, the B.C.L. have become the household word for the last 100 years."



# Chung Shin Union Association Inauguration Chairman Appeals For Advice, Goodwill and Co-operation, 1952



*Mr. Chen Sian.*



*Mr. T.P. Cromwell*



*Group photograph of the Chairman and Committee members.*

A simple ceremony held at Main Bazaar marked the inauguration of the Chung

Shin Union Association which has been formed recently of the younger gen-

eration of the Chinese community in Kuching. Although invitations had been sent out to various community associations and organisations there were not many representatives present.

The Chairman of the Association, Mr. Chen Sian who opened the meeting with an address, explained the object of the association and said that being a young project with young members they had great difficulties to overcome hence the lateness in its inauguration. He spoke of the lack of experience among the members and of the weak resources which they possessed, and appealed for advice, goodwill and co-operation from well wishers. Mr. Chen expressed thanks to the Registrar of Societies and to the advisers of the Association, Mr. D.J. Chandler and Mr. Thoo Nai Ping for their assistance which had made the birth of the association possible.

The Registrar of Societies, Mr. T.P. Cromwell who spoke on the occasion said the young people here are the descendants of the Chinese community who have made their homes here and this country their own. He had, he said, great hopes in the association as a body which would be the medium with which the young people of the community could unite and work in the interests and welfare of the country.

A reception was held after the ceremony.

# The Coffee Shop Trade and The Public, 1952



Comment on the coffee shop trade and its far and close relations with other trades and the important part it is playing in the daily life of the public was made by the Chairman of the Kuching Coffee Merchants Trading Co., Ltd., Mr. Chiam Tow Hiok, at an inaugural dinner held in the premises of the Kuching Chinese Chamber of Commerce and at which more than two hundred guests including the Acting Chief Secretary and Mrs. J.H. Ellis were present.

The speech of the Chairman was read out in English by the Secretary,

Mr. Chang Kia Kim. Welcoming the guests, the Chairman expressed the pleasure and honour accorded to the Company to see in their midst representatives of such a varied nature including government officials, manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers and leaders of the Chinese, European and Malay communities.

Touching on the relations of the coffee shop trade in connection with other trades the Chairman said: "The coffee shop trade has been viewed by many as one of the lowest and

despised one in the past. But little do they realise that the role it is playing in their daily life is such an important one and at times indispensable to many, especially to the working classes. Though the trade is considered to be so small and negligible, the openings and facilities it can afford are so many that the manufacturers and sale agents find the bulk of their products passing through the hands of the coffee shop owners to the consumers.

"As to the objects for which this Company is established are briefly: (1) to carry on the business of tea and coffee shop keepers, restaurant keepers and suppliers of provisions of all kinds; (2) to foster close relationship among its members; (3) to look after the interest of its members; (4) to assist in public welfare; and (5) to jointly to take up the local authorities any matters affecting the trade and its welfare."

The Chairman concluded his address with an expression of thanks to all those who have sent gifts and congratulated them in the local press.

The Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. J.H. Ellis replied on behalf of the guests. Congratulating the coffee merchants on the formation of an association said associations of people are commendable things, particularly when they are for the promotion of trade and commerce. Underlining the role of importance which coffee shops have assumed in the Colony, Mr. Ellis said the inauguration of this trading society marks another step in the history of the country's trade and commerce.





The Public Service Corps is an organisation which aims at helping the public. It is already firmly established. The first branch is organised and trained in First Aid.

It is now necessary to provide these men and those who will later join the First Aid Branch with First Aid kit so that they will be able at any time to put their services at the disposal of any member of the public who requires first aid as the result of an accident. One continually reads account of persons who have been injured, whose injuries could have been made much less if immediate attention could have been given to them. The First Aid Branch will help to minimise the effects of accidents and in some case not only will it prevent victims from suffering permanent injury, but it is very likely that First Aid will save life.

We cannot buy First Aid boxes without money. In order to protect the public against imposters, it is also necessary that the Public Service Corps members no matter whether Headquarters Staff, or Branch Members, should wear distinguishing badges. Later the question as to whether they should have

uniforms will be discussed.

The second branch, the First Fighting Branch, is a more expensive branch to start. Fire fighting equipment as we all know costs far more than a small volunteer body can raise just now. Thanks to the generosity of Government and the Commissioner of Sarawak Constabulary a new trailer pump of standard design has been made available for the Fire Fighting Branch. Uniforms are being designed, and as soon as money is collected minor personal equipment will be purchased. It will be of good quality and of the types as that used by the Municipal Fire Brigade. It would not be fair to ask volunteers to expose themselves to the dangers of a fireman's duties without giving them adequate protection. We therefore wish them to have strong helmets, insulated against electricity, and strong enough to resist the blows of failing materials: we wish them to have strong metal epaulettes, good leather wellingtons, and special firemen's axes. Ropes, aluminium ladders and so on will also be required. Life insurance will also be undertaken.

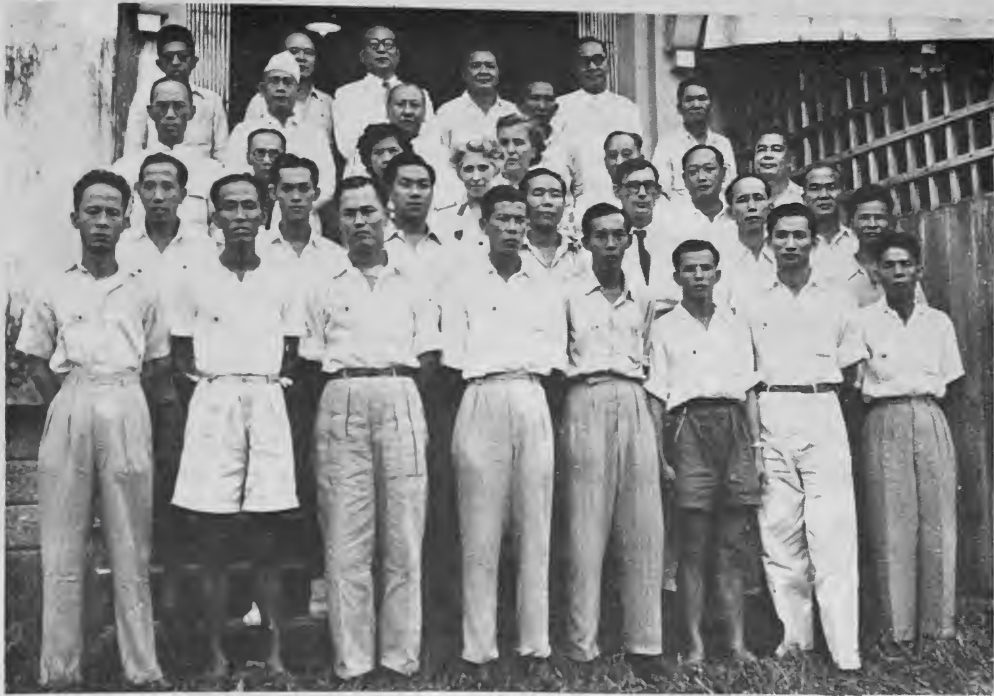
These things cannot be bought without money.

It is the property of the inhabitants of Kuching which will be protected by the Fire Fighting Branch, and it is hoped that the property owners and principal tenants of the premises in the shop-house area of Kuching will subscribe generously to the Public Service Corps.

The First Aid Branch of the Public Service Corps is not a rival to the British Red Cross Society: it is a complementary organisation and will always work in the closest co-operation with both the British Red Cross Society and the Government Medical and Health Services. The Public Service Corps acknowledges its great obligations to both of them. It would have been quite impossible to run a First Aid Branch without their active support and participation.

The Public Service Corps is a mutual assistance organisation in the best sense of the terms: all the members are volunteers, and they are prepared to sacrifice their time to serve their fellow citizens. Are their fellow citizens ready to sacrifice not less than





fifteen dollars a shophouse over all Kuching so that this Corps may be enabled to fulfil its object which is to make Kuching a safer town to live in?

The nucleus of thirteen qualified First Aid Members consists of the above.

Mr. Yeo Teck Chai, Mr. Yeo Eng Leng, Mr. Sim Leng Boon, Mr. Tan Teck Kang, Mr. Kuek Chian Liang, Mr. Law Yam Seng, Mr. Lim Joo Kaw, Mr. Teo Ah soon, Mr. Sing Joo Heng, Mr. Chua Ah Chiang, Mr. Tan Jiak Chee, Mr. Kwang Yew Zen, Mr. Gan Seng Guan.

They will shortly receive Certificates, having successfully passed the examination of the British Red Cross Society.

The graduates of the thirteen first batch of voluntary recruits to the First Aid Branch who went through a course of training voluntarily and conducted by Dr. Wong Cheng Way and Dr. Chua Tong Guan. The ceremony was witnessed by a large number

of people, including the Chairman and members of the Kuching Advisory Board and representing of local community associations which was held on 10/7/1952 afternoon at 4.30 pm at the premises of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, when they received their First Aid Certificates from the President Red Cross Society (Sarawak Branch) Mrs. L. Kennedy.

The Chairman of the Board Mr. J.P. Cromwell delivered a brief address before calling on Mrs. Kennedy to give away the certificates. Mrs. Kennedy congratulated the successful candidates and expressed her pleasure in being able to participate in this ceremony. She reminded the new first aiders they were equipped with special knowledge which could be of good assistance to themselves and their fellowmen, and of their duty to exercise such knowledge in the interest of the public. She expressed the hope also that they

would achieve good results, and by such set an example to encourage more of the public to join the Public Service Corps. Mrs. Kennedy voiced here confidence in the help which these new first aiders would be able to give to the Red Cross Society.

Before the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr. B.P. Lam spoke of the significance of the day function. The formation of the Public Service Corps, he said, did not happen overnight, but the result of long and careful preparation, and the success achieved by the members of the First Aid Branch, which was marked by ceremony of this afternoon reflected the success of the Advisory Board which sponsored it.

A toast to the successful first aiders was proposed by Mr. Chan Qui Chong.

The toast to Her Majesty the Queen was proposed, and a toast to the hosts was proposed by Mr. Tan Bak Lim on behalf of the guests.



*The first official launching of two Chinese Dragon Boat held in 15th May, 1952.*



*Picture shows Mrs. R.G. Aikman and Mrs. Chandler soon after unveiling the heads of the two newly constructed dragon boats at the official launching which took place at Pangkalan Batu Crews of the boats stand by.*



# The First Official Launching Of Two Chinese Dragon Boats 1952



The launching ceremony at Pangkalan Batu on Thursday 15th May was not according to the old rites, and unveiling the dragons' heads took the place of the superstitious "opening the eyes" by painting in the eyeballs of the dragons by a Buddhist or Taoist priest. One reason for not performing the old ceremony was that it would have cost the Dragon Boat Society about \$400 in sacrificial pig, incense, crackers and priests' fees. No doubt there are some who will blame the ignominious sinking of the Red Dragon Boat (which should have been the luckiest colour) on this failure to propitiate the alien spirits of the strange river.

For those who were unable to see the dragon figure-heads, a slight description may be interesting. The dragons are shown with gaping jaws and lolling tongue, and long red beard. The teeth of the Green Dragon were the "teeth" from a sword-fish sword. Two springy whiskers sprout from the upper lip, the eyes are staring; the ears resemble those of a deer, and both Dragons sport local deer horns slightly gilded. On the crown of his head the dragon bears five triangular flags of the five colours — white, yellow, green, red and black. Between his eyes is the character for "KING" (王) and on his forehead is a mirror. For the festive occasion red cloth was draped over his brows and hung down his cheeks. Behind the jaws a stiff and shaggy sheet of bristle cover the beginning of his neck.

At the discussions at a committee stage it

was decided that the Foochow dragon head was probably the best, but the carvers are not yet satisfied and next year will see them making even more ferocious dragons, perhaps even with eyes that roll and light up at night!

Perhaps it may be out of place, but a word of thanks to all those who helped to make the dragons swim must be uttered at every opportunity, with special mention to nostalgic towkays, brawny stevedores and shop assistants, the artists and artisans and the "foreigners" — since the boats themselves were local racing prahus in disguise.

At the Kuching Regatta this year there appeared on the waters of the Sarawak River for the first time two dragon boats, one green and one red. They provided a colourful spectacle for the crowds and served to introduce the local Chinese into the water sports. Properly used, the dragon boat races are run on the 5th day of the 5th moon in the Chinese lunar calendar, corresponding this year to the 28th May; but it was agreed by the promoters that it would be an excellent thing to join in with the rest of the paddlers.

The great beasts of China, heraldic, mythical and potent are tigers, dragons, kilins and lions. Dragons are the incarnation of the spirit of the waters, of the clouds, seas and rivers. It is the emblem of the power of the emperor (having five claws in place of the usual four). The tiger is the king of beasts (having the character 王 on his forehead) and presumably being a land animal is not on good terms with the dragon. At any rate there is a Chinese superstition that kittens have difficulty in surviving the fifth day of the fifth moon.

As the dragon is the king of the waters it is not suprising that he should be taken for the shape of a ritual boat. The Norsemen too had dragon boats. The Balinese, though no sailors, think the universe rests on a turtle which floats on the ocean, and round the turtle are twined two serpents whose heads are depicted in a manner very similar to that as carved by our Chinese friends in Kuching.



It seems then very likely that the dragon boat festival is very ancient. The historical explanation is that the boats go out nominally to seek the body of Ch'u Ping of the fourth century B.C., who was a "loyal minister", but being degraded in rank by his prince, and disgusted with the world, drowned himself in the river Pei-lo.

Although the Chinese use oars and have done for many centuries, the dragon boats are paddled according to ancient practice: and the steering is done by an oar on the port side.

Time is kept by the beating of a drum and gong in each boat. The drums for this occasion were specially brought from Singapore. We were unable to buy the correct type of gong in

time, and hope to get some from Hongkong later. The gong is of the bossless type. A "Glossary of Reference" records "At wrecks of junks the Chinese are very careful to save the gongs, and will not part with them under any consideration. To do so would entail "bad joss" on further enterprises."

It is interesting to note that this glossary must have been published fifty years or more ago: and that we had to borrow gongs in Kuching, and that the gong was not lost when the Red Dragon Boat sank.

**KAO LUN-WEI**  
**Mr. J.P. Cromptwell**

## **The Second Official Launching Of Two New Dragon Boats 1953**





*Mrs. R.G. Aikman and Mrs. D.J. Chandler performed the unveiling ceremony.*

The ceremony commenced with a short speech by Mr. D.J. Chandler, Chairman of the Kuching Dragon Boat Society, who gave a welcome to the boat crews and also gave his thanks to the guests who had attended that occasion. This speech was then followed by another brief one by Mr. L.K. Morse, Acting-Chief Secretary.

At the conclusion of the speeches Mrs. R.G. Aikman and Mrs. D.J. Chandler officially launched the two new dragon boats, one of which was painted Blue and the other Red. The boats slid into the water smoothly. The four dragon boats that morning, under the crews of Batu Lintang Training Centre and

School, Municipal Council, Kuching Wharf Labourers and Mixed Crew, paddled down with the tide. After this was done the guests were invited to a reception on board the Rajah Brooke.

The official launching of the two new dragon boats took place at 9 a.m. on last Saturday, 27th June, in which specially invited guests including Government officials, leaders of communities and members of the Dragon Boat Society attended in full. The launching ceremony was also watched by an interested crowd of spectators. The crews of the dragon boats were dressed in colourful singlets and pants.





## Harmonious Team Work

It was some time when two dragon boats were introduced into the country for the first time and took their place as a feature of the Regatta. We predicted then, that this novel innovation was coming to stay permanently and we welcomed the idea for two reasons.

Firstly, the Regatta has always been and will always be part and parcel of the tradition of Sarawak. It is a national sport of the natives. The dragon boat is part of a tradition in China, but in the modern era it is unfortunately shadowed by other developments and is fast becoming, if not already extinct. The Chinese here have made Sarawak their home and it is only appropriate that the tradition of the two peoples should be closely associated. More worthy of note is, of course, the harmonious result of this fusion.

Secondly, in sports can be found common ground for people of many races to meet and work together, and the Regatta is one form of sport in which team work, more than anything else is vital and essential.

Manning one of the new boats will be a Mixed Crew — comprising people of different races, speaking different languages but with one common interest. Each stroke of the paddle must be made with precision and in unison, and perfect understanding and co-operation is required. This is an example which we can do well to apply in life. If harmonious team work can be achieved in sport can it not also be tried on other things with equal success too?





*A portion of spectators watching the Regatta crowded together on the river front of Pangkalan Batu.*

## Thousands Attend The Regatta

For three successive days, Saturday to Monday last, thousands of people of all domicile races, sexes and ages, gathered on the two beautiful river banks of this town from far and near to watch the gala occasion — the Annual Regatta. It must have been a most colourful and gay event in the lives of the river dwellers and the town's people as well.

One or two days before the Regatta prahus and boats of all descriptions began to arrive at the river-front. They were mostly from upper river Kampongs, sea coasts and the outstations. Some of the boats and people have come from as far as the Second Division.

The biggest conglomeration of boats, many dressed in the typical brightly coloured "tirai" (a kind of gleamy coloured cloth used as boat curtain) on the bows and sterns of the wooden crafts. The biggest clusters were seen near the Astana, Pangkalan Batu, Pangkalan

Sapi and the Government Pontoon Wharf. At night the huge clusters of river craft resembled floating villages. It was a picturesque scene that could be observed only once a year.

Also one could see from far away the long lines of small atap or wooden huts and sheds specially erected on the opposite rising bank across river for the Malay womenfolk.

The small stretch of road in front of the Clock Tower was closed to traffic during racing hours; and it was fully jammed with people who either went there to see the boat racing or were punters at the totes and cash sweeps. The official grandstand too was packed to capacity. The crowd was biggest on the last day; and inspite of the trade recession the cash sweep prizes sometimes reached the high figure of \$600 or more.



*The line up for a start of a race of local long boats.*



*The finishing point.*



*The racing boats are waiting for the result of the race.*



*A Regatta in progress.*



*Spectators watching the Regatta at Sarawak Steamship wharf.*





*Two photographs show the spectators watching the Regatta at Main Bazaar along the Sarawak River.*







*These dragon boats are ready to start off at the Annual Regatta on 1st July 1953.*



## Greatest Of Crowds At Regatta 1953

One of the greatest crowds ever seen in Kuching appeared from the rural areas and outlying regions to watch the Coronation Regatta which took place this year on two days, 30th June and 1st July, the latter day being Cession Day as well. The organisers of this event have done wisely in changing the date for the Regatta from 1st January, as run previously, to 1st July, as the latter date permits more of the natives, who are mostly farmers and paddy planters, to come and join

in the fun. Because the paddy has been harvested and the new season has not yet started so the Malays, Ibans, Land Dayaks, Melanaus, Bugis and other races residing in the hinterland, sea side and even stations situated in areas as far as the Batang Lupar River came down in large batches to participate and many to watch the gala show put up in Kuching. And what a fine show it was.



On the first day of the Regatta hundreds of boats of all shapes and sizes clustered both banks of the river from the Borneo Company Ltd.'s wharf to the Ban Hock Wharf; and on the sloping grounds across river many temporary attap huts were erected. Thousands of people of all races jammed both river banks to have a good view of the boat races, and even tree tops as well as the decks of motor launches were all occupied by the spectators. Under a merciless, hot sun and stifling heat the Regatta was smoothly held without a single hitch. Ice water and other hawkers did a roaring trade during that day.

The scene on the second day was similar to that of the first day but the crowds were

bigger than before and more boats took part in the events for that day. In spite of the steaming heat the competitions among the boat crews were quite keen and business in the Totes and Cash Sweep sections was also brisk. An additional item which deserves mention is the beauty of the dragon boats that towered above the other categories of vessels in the river. The difference in this year's Regatta was that other races also took part in paddling the four dragon boats and they have done it splendidly too. This year's Regatta will be an unforgettable occasion. Even the night life of Kuching's streets and entertainment centres were changed beyond recognition.



*A Regatta in progress.*



*The Master Boat of the Regatta in action.*

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# St Thomas's School Sports 1952

## Noel House Carries Championship Cup



Noel House, last year's Inter-House Runners-up, won the Inter-House Championship Cup for being the best Athletic House in the St. Thomas's School Annual Athletic Sports held at the School Grounds last Saturday afternoon. Noel House scored 44 points, only two points more than MacDougall House, last year's Inter-House Champion.

MacDougall House

received the Inter-House Runners-up Cup presented by Mr. Ong Guan Tee.

Logie House with 33 points came in to third place. Mounsey House scoring 23 points came in fourth place while Chambers House and Hose House scoring 16 and six points respectively came in fifth and sixth places. Logie House fought hard to win the Inter-House Tug-of-War Challenge Cup presented by Lilian and Sylvia Cinemas. The team of

eight sturdy boys fought very hard with a team from MacDougall House. Logie House also won the Inter-House Relay (Sr.) Challenge Cup while Noel House won the Inter-House Relay Challenge Cup-Junior.

The handsome trophy presented by Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang for the Inter-School Medley Relay (880 yards) was this year won by St. Thomas's School. It was a very close win for Thomians but they had made it. Thomians were leading all the way throughout the run but they spurred harder to win the Cup from St. Joseph's who came to a very close second place. Batu Lintang Training Centre and School finished third place. The other two teams who participated in this event were the Maderasah Melayu and Chung Hwa Middle School.

Mak Chin Soon who clocked 5 mins. 53 1/5 sec. in the last event of the day, the Mile Race, was awarded the One Mile Challenge Cup presented by the Sarawak Union.

Highlight of the day was the March Past in which the contingents from the six Houses carried their own House Flags round the field before the main events started.

The weather was not very kind and as a result of the showers the tracks were rather slippery.

At the end of the day, the Principal of the School before calling on Mr. Yap Ghee Heng to give away the prizes made a short address in which he paid tribute to those, especially the Old Boys, for the help they had rendered during the Sports.



**220 yards Jr. A:** N Narutu; Stephen Janting George Hugh.  
Time: 29  $\frac{4}{5}$  sec. (Last year: 27  $\frac{3}{5}$  sec).

**220 yards Sr. (Open):** Solomon Soo; Suhaili Abang; Yapp Fong Seng.  
Time: 25  $\frac{1}{5}$  sec (last year: 26 sec.)

**Old Boys' Slow Bicycle Race — 50 yards:** Chua Siang Cheng; Arnold Linang; James Lim.

**Scouts' Race — 75 yards:** Ee Poh Teck; Joseph Bunchol; Peter Ng.

**High Jump — Sr. (Open):** Wang Siew Ming; Ting Ing Hee; Solomon Soo.  
Height: 5ft. 1ins. (equalled last year's)

**Discus — Sr. (Open):** Wee Chiew Teck; George Seah; Hilton Muda.  
Dis. 86ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

**Three-Legged Race Jr. B:** Lim Boon Ho & Lim Thian Choi; Patrick Ong & Sim Thiam Chui; Voon Lok Bin & Boon Soon Seng.

**One Mile Race — Sr. (Open):** Mak Chin Soon; Suhaili Abang; Kong Fen Kiong.

Time: 5 mins. 53  $\frac{1}{5}$  sec. (last year: 5 mins. 52  $\frac{1}{5}$  sec. set by Barnabas Chia).







**Pole Vault — Sr. (Open):** Liew Thian Seng; Peter Inkol; Barnabas Chia.  
Height: 9ft. 2ins.

**Long Jump — Sr. (Open):** Wang Shau Seng; Yapp Fong Seng; George Seah.  
Distance: 18ft. 6ins. (last year: 18ft. 2ins.)

**Girls' Race — 75 yards:** Lim Khiok Hoon; Fu Dorothea; Lo Siew Ket.  
Time: 11 sec.

**Inter-School Medley Relay — 880 yards:** St. Thomas's School; St. Joseph's School; Batu Lintang Training Centre and School.  
Time: 1 min. 52 sec. (last year: 1 min. 51  $\frac{3}{5}$  sec. by St. Joseph's School.)

**440 yards — Jr. A:** Usop bin Samat; George Hugh, Stephen Janting.  
Time: 68 sec. (last years: 62  $\frac{3}{5}$  sec.)





*The Inter-House Tug-of-War in progress.*

**440 yards — Sr. (Open):**  
Chin Ah Lin; Kok Kim Shing; Barnabas Chia.  
Time: 61 sec.

**Javelin — Sr. (Open):**  
Hilton Muda; Wong Ah Yim; Wu Yeong Tai.  
Distance: 118ft. 10ins.

**Inter-House Relay — 440**

**yards — Jr. A:** Noel House; Hose House; Logie House.  
Time: 60 1/5 sec.

**Hurdles — 120 yards — Sr. (Open):** Suhaili; Abang; Yapp Fong Seng; Daniel Ragam.  
Time: 16 2/5 sec. (equalled last year's record.)

**880 yards — Sr. (Open):**  
Kong Fen Kiong; Freddy Dunggie; Barnabas Chia. 2 mins. 29 4/5 sec. (last year: 2 min. 34 2/5 sec.)

**Obstacle Race — Jr. B:**  
Michael Reggie; Wan Teck Kee; Anthony Ningkan.

**Inter-House Tug-of-War:**  
**Winner:** Logie House; Runners-up: MacDougall House.

**Girls' Race — 100 yards:**  
Jenny Wong; Rosalind Anding; Lulu Wong.  
Time: 13 4/5 sec.

**Old Boys' Handicap Race — 100 yards:** Mr. Gawing; Mr. S. Blaydes; Mr. Sim Joo Seck.

**Inter-House Relay — 440 yards Sr.:** Logie House; Chamber House; MacDougall House.  
Time: 56 1/5 sec. (last year: 49 1/5 sec.)

**Putting the Shot — Sr. (Open):** George Seah; Ting Ming Hui; Ramsay Jitam.  
Distance 36ft. 8ins.

**Hop, Step and Jump — Sr. Open:** Wang Shau Seng; Solomon Soo; Daniel Chong.  
Distance: 36ft. 5 1/2 ins. (last year: 36ft. 1ins.)

**220 yards — Jr. B:** Pi'e Rajak; Lim Thiam Choi; Simon Dublin.  
Time: 30 2/5 sec. (last year: 32 sec.)

**Old Boys' Race — 220 yards:** Soo Beng Hui; Stephen Chen; Wee Kang Joo.  
Time: 29 sec.

**High Jump — Jr. A:**  
Nicholas Narutu; George Hugh; Simon Dublin.  
Height: 4ft. 8ins. (Equalled last year's record.)

**Sack Race — Jr. B:** Wee Ah Kui; Pi'e Rajak; Michael Reggie.  
Time: 16 sec.

**Old Boys' Race — 100 yards:** Soo Beng Hui; Haji Bohari; Arshad.  
Time: 11 sec. (last year: 11 2/5 sec.)



## Four Records Broken In Thomians Sports

Four Senior Division records set up last year were broken during the St. Thomas's School Annual Athletic Sports held at the School Grounds last Saturday afternoon.

Kong Fen Kiong who clocked 2 mins. 29  $\frac{4}{5}$  sec. in the 880 yards event broke last year's record for 2 mins. 34  $\frac{2}{5}$  set up by Stephen Chen, Solomon Soo bettered last year's 220 yards time of 26 sec. set up by Yapp Fong Seng by  $\frac{4}{5}$  sec. His time in the 100 yards is equivalent to last year's (11 sec.).

Wang Shau Seng did a fine performance in last Saturday's Sports day by breaking and improving his own records set up last year. He improved the distance of 18ft. 2ins. set up last year in the Long Jump by 4ins. In the Hop, Step and Jump event he set up a record distance of 36ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. better than last year. Suhaili Abang's time of 16  $\frac{2}{5}$  sec. in the 120 yards Hurdles is equivalent to his own record set up last year.

Liew Thian Seng cleared 9ft. 2ins. in the Pole

Vault.

Two events, the Javelin and Discuss were introduced for the first time this year. Hilton Muda set up a good record in throwing the Javelin at a distance of 118ft. 10ins., while Wee Chiew Teck set up a record of 36ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in the Discuss throw.

Suhaili Abang who clocked 16  $\frac{2}{5}$  sec. in the 120 yards Hurdles won the Hurdles Challenge Cup donated by the Nursing Staff of the Kuching General Hospital.

Old Boy, Soo Beng Hui, a local sportsman, won two of the events for the Old Boys. He came in first in the 220 and 100 yards breaking his own last year's 100 yards record by  $\frac{2}{5}$  sec. His time of 11 sec. in the 100 yards is equivalent to the time set by the Present Boy, Solomon Soo.

Mr. Gawing won the Old Boys Handicap 100 yards and there was a big cheer from the crowd when he received his prize at the end of the day.



# Lee Vun Siew Best Athlete

FINE RECORDS SET IN ST.  
JOSEPH'S SCHOOL  
SPORTS 1954



Lee Vun Siew was heralded the Best Athlete (A Division) at the conclusion of the St. Joseph's School Annual Athletic Sports held on the School Grounds last Saturday afternoon. He was awarded the Championship Challenge Cup. In addition he was also awarded the Victor Ludorum Shield and

another. Cup for the Best Performance of the day.

He came in first in the Pole Vault, Shot Putt and Hurdles and second in the High Jump event thus scoring 18 points. He set up a new record in the Hurdles (110 yards) when he clocked 16.7 sec. In the Shot Putt (16 lbs.) he tapped 28 feet 11 ins.

and in the High Jump event he and Lee Gut Hing both cleared 5 feet 6¾ ins. bettering the 1952 record by 2¾ ins. In the Pole Vault he equalled the height of 9ft. 7ins. set up by Lucas Kueh last year.

Chan Pak Weng set up a new record of 9ft. 11½ ins. in the Long Jump A Division. (He cleared 20ft. 1ins. in the same event in the B Division last year.) His record in the Hop, Step and Jump was 38ft. 11ins. Tham Siew Kai who won the 880 yards event for the fourth time in succession equalled his own record of 2 mins. 21 sec. set up in 1951. Peter Thien clocked a very good time of 10.5 sec. in the 100 yards race (A Division).

Drahman bin Sapu who scored 16 points was awarded the Championship Cup for being the best athlete in the B Division and Tan Lian Hock who scored 8 points was the best athlete in the C Division.

Blue House with 91 points won the Inter-House Champion Athletics Shield from Red House (90 points) holders of the shield for three successive years.

Red House being the Runners-Up won a Cup. Green House with 73 points came in third place, followed by Yellow House, 20 points.

Blue House also won the Inter-House Basketball Shield, and a Cup for being the winners in the Inter-House Shuttle Relay (C Division).

Red House won two Cups for being the winners of the Inter-House Relay (A & B Divisions).

Green House won the Inter-House Football Shield, and a Cup for winning the Tug-of-War (Inter-House) event.





880 yards winner Tham Siew Kai, Sim Hoon Kai runner-up.



The Results in full are as follows:

**Putting the Shot (16 lbs):** Lee Vun Siew, Kon Ted Khian, Kho Cheng Mong.  
Dis: 28ft. 11ins. (New Record).

**Long Jump (A):** Chan Pak Weng, Lee Gut Hing, Stephen Chin.  
Dis: 9ft. 11½ins. (Record), 1953 19ft. 10ins. by Lee Gut Hing.

**Hop, Step and Jump:** Chan Pak Weng, Lee Gut Hing, Stephen Chin.  
Dis: 38ft. 11½ins. (New Record)

**Long Jump (B):** Drahman bin Sapo, Paul Kueh, Edwin Tan.  
Dis: 17ft.

**High Jump (A):** Lee Gut Hing, Lee Vun Siew (both cleared 5ft. 6¾ins), Wu Ping Kang. (Record) 1952 — 5ft. 4ins. by Lee Vun Siew.



L R: Mr. Mathew Hon, Mr. Anthony Harry, Mr. Andrew Hon, Official Race Handicap.

**High Jump (B):** Lee Min Siew, Mathew Warriar, Paul Boyer.  
Height: 4ft. 10½ins.

**Pole Vault (A & B):** Lee Vun Siew (Height: 9ft. 7ins. equalled 1953 record by Lucas Kueh), Lee Gut Hing and Lucas Kueh tied for second place.

**100 Yds. (A):** Peter Thien, Chan Pak Weng, Chen Hua Kai. Time: 10.5 sec.

**100 Yds. (B):** Freddy Baring Gould, Drahman bin Sapo, Patrick Lai. Time: 11.2 sec.

**100 Yds. (C):** Tan Lian Hock, Vincent Sijore, Malcolm James. Time: 13.2 sec.

**Shuttle Relay Race (Lower Primaries):** Green House, Blue House, Red House.

**Inter-School Relay (Boys) (4 × 220 Yds):** St. Thomas's School, Batu Lintang Training Centre and School, Chung Hua Middle School.

**Scouts' Race:** Aba, Joseph Tai, John Bateman.

**Obstacle & Coin Race (Lower Primaries):** Sakawi, Cafri, Poh Kwek.

**440 Yds (A):** Tham Siew Kai, Bidari bin Mohamad, Sim Hoon Kai.  
Time: 58 sec. 1952 — 57.1 sec. by Tham Siew Kai.

**440 Yds (B):** Drahman bin Sapo, Patrick Lai, James Kong.  
Time: 61 sec.

**220 Yds (C):** Tan Lian Hock, Malcolm James, Tan Thuan Hock.  
Time: 31 sec.

**Inter-School Relay (Girls 4 × 110 Yds):** St. Teresa's Convent, St. Mary's School, St. Joseph's (Green Road).



*The Blue House won the Inter-House Champion Athletic Shield.*

The Present boys won the Cup for the Past vs Present Football competition.

St. Joseph's School relay team who came in first in the Inter-School (Boys) Relay race was disqualified. The first runner, who had a cramp in the leg, fell and threw the baton to the next runner. The team reached the tape first but St. Thomas's School team was awarded the first place, followed by Batu Lintang Training Centre and Chung Hua Middle School.

St. Teresa's Convent Relay team came in first in the Inter-School (Girls) Relay winning the race from St. Mary's School team.



*The Red House Runner up for the Champion Athletic Shield.*



*During the interval time.*

THE KUALA  
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1950





*Miss Chew winner Inter-School Relay (Girls 4 x 110)*



*Red House being the winners of the Inter-House Relay (A & B)*



*Simon Hon winner of Slow Bicycle Race (Old Boys)*



*Chan Pak Wen winners of Long Jump A Division*

**Sack Race (Lower Primaries):** Chin Nyuk Foh, John Chen, Michael Teo.

**Staff's Race:** Mrs. F. James & Mr. J. Usuraga, Mrs. Goh & Mr. Ong Boon Choon, Miss L. Chong & Mr. Gabriel Tan.

**Inter-House Relay (B):** Red House, Green House, Blue House.

Time: 1 min. 53 sec.

**Slow Bicycle Race (Old Boys):** Simon Hon, Hj. Jeli, Dick Wee.

**220 Yds (A):** Chen Hua Kai, Peter Thian, Chan Pak Weng.

Time: 25.4 sec. 1952 — 25.1 sec. by Henry Chua.

**220 Yds (B):** Freddy Baring Gould, Drahman bin Sapo, Patrick Lai.

Time: 27 sec.

**100 Yds — Old Boys:** Vincent Yong, Lee Hup Hin, Osman bin Hj. Drahman.

Time: 11.7 sec.

**Tug-of-War (School Prefects):** Winners: Augustine Song's team (Augustine Song, Richard Tan, Benedict Wong, Chen Hua Kai, Titus Choo, Chan Hong Nam, Stephen Law, Teo Boon Heng, Ong Shak Foo, Wu Ping Kang, Michael Pa'ong).

**Three-legged (Lower Primaries):** Stephen Lee & Tan Ah Hee, Michael Teo & Hos- sen, Eu Sia & Yong Fah Kng.

**Hurdles (A & B) 110 Yds. Height 3ft 3ins.:** Lee Vun Siew, Puk Yung Sang, Lucas Kueh.

Time: 16.7 sec.

**Ladies' Race:** Mrs. Lopez, Miss Yong, Miss P. Lai.

**Inter-House Shuttle Relay (C):** Blue House, Yellow House, Green House.

Time: 49.5 sec.

**Inter-House Relay (A):** Red House, Blue House, Green House.

**Sack Race (C):** Ong Jiew Fook, Tan Lian Hock, Chew Kia Beng.

**Treasure Hunt (Old Boys over 35 years):** Lee Hup Hin, David Bong, Lucas Tan.

**880 Yds (A & B):** Tham Siew Kai, Sim Hoon Kai, Lau Chee Nam.

Time: 2 mins. 21 sec. Equalled 1951 record by Tham Siew Kai.

**Officials' Race (Handicap):** Mr. Matthew Hon, Mr. Anthony Harry, Mr. Andrew Hon.

**Inter-House Tug-of-War:** Winners: Green House; Runners-Up: Blue House; 3rd. Red House.



## Judging Today At Sarawak Union Pan Borneo Photographic Exhibition

Judging of the entries for the Pan British Borneo Photographic Exhibition sponsored by the Sarawak Photographic Exhibition sponsored by the Sarawak Photographic

Society, and the first of its kind to be held in Kuching, will take place this afternoon at the Sarawak Union Club (through the courtesy of the Committee and members).



*Picture shows second from the right is Mr. P.L. Chan welcomed by the Chairman Mr. K.F. Wong and committee members of the Sarawak Photographic Society on the arrival at Kuching airport.*

The panel of judges, comprising Mrs. Hedda Morrison, ARPS; Mr. P.L. Chan, EFIAP, ARPS; Mr. K.F. Wong, Hon EFIAP, ARPS; Mr. Henry T. Jerah; and Mr. Dennis Law will use a special lighting system in conformity with international standard in their judging. This system will also be the first of its kind used here.

There have been submitted more than 300 prints from North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak.

Arriving by air this morning from Singapore is one of the Judges, Mr. P.L. Chan, Hon. Secretary of the Singapore Photographic Society who is one of the best known amateur photographers in Singapore. His prints have

been exhibited at international salons in 25 countries. Attached to the well known Singapore firm of Accountants, Auditors and Secretaries, Mr. Chan is making this visit on his own specially for this occasion to which he has been invited.

This is not his first visit, having been here on a holiday last July when, with Mr. K.F. Wong, he spent about a week in the upper Rejang of the Third Division, thereby fulfilling a long-desired wish to see something of the ulu peoples of this country and the conditions in which they live.

Also in Kuching for this occasion is Mr. Tan Kee Chiang from North Borneo.

## Two Locals Awarded A.R.P.S.

News was received yesterday by Mr. K.F. Wong, President of the Sarawak Photographic Society that two awards of the Associate of the Royal Photographic Society have been made by the R.P. Society's headquarters in London to two members of the Sarawak Photographic Society.

They are Au Yang Nang Gun and Lee Seng Hua, both of Kuching, and the first two to gain this honour for the Society since its inception. These two awards make the total number of A.R.P.S. recipients in Kuching to four — the other two being Mr. K.F. Wong

himself and Mrs. Hedda Morrison.

Both Au Yang Nang Gun and Lee Seng Hua are well known among Sarawak photographic circles. The former was recently awarded the First Prize in the Pan British Borneo Photographic Competition while the latter won a Special Prize in the same Competition and the First Prize in the Pan Malayan Photographic Exhibition last year.

Commenting on the awards Mr. K.F. Wong told the Tribune yesterday that it was a great honour not only to the two men but to the Sarawak Photographic Society as well.

# KUCHING PHOTOGRAPHER GETS GOLD MEDAL

## First Pan Borneo Photographic Competition



*Pictures show (top) Au Yang Nang Gun with his Gold Medal picture; and (bottom) the Judges and some of the prize winners: Front row, from left: Low Gin Chee, Peter Wong, Lee Seng Hwa, Au Yang Nang Gun, Chan Kee Chong (Sandakan) and K.L. Pang. Back row from left: Mr. Dennis Law, Mrs. Hedda Morrison, Messrs. P.L. Chan, H.T. Jerah and K.F. Wong.*

The first Pan British Borneo Photographic Competition sponsored by the Sarawak Photographic Society, the judging of which took place last Saturday at the Sarawak Union Club, proved to be very successful both in the large and well-proportioned number of entries submitted and the high standard of skill and ingenuity displayed.

The Competition was in two sections, one open to all photographers in the three territories of Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo and the other to school children in the three territories.

The total number of prints in the Open Section, received were 297 of which 101 were accepted. In the School section there were 48 entries of which 21 were accepted.

The panel of Judges comprised Mrs. Hedda Morrison, ARPS; Mr. P.L. Chan, EFIAP, ARPS; Mr. K.F. Wong, Hon. EFIAP, ARPS; Mr. Henry T. Jerah and Mr. Dennis Law.

The system of judging was greatly facilitated by the use of the lighting system, an electrical instrument which has been purchased by the Sarawak Photographic Society and which is normally used in international photographic competitions.

Among the prints submitted in the Open Competition was one entitled

'Contemplation' which won for its author, Lee Seng Hwa the Gold Medal at the Pan-Malayan Exhibition in Singapore recently. This print was awarded a Special Prize.

"Glistening Teeth" was the title of the print which won for Au Yang Nang Gun of Kuching the Gold Medal. The two Silver Medals went to Lee Chin Chow of Sibu for his picture "Harvest Season" and to K.L. Pang of Kuching for his 'Look At My Face'.

Three Bronze Medals went to Hwa Chee Peng of Jesselton and Chan Kee Cheong and Kwang Shing Fook both of Sandakan for their prints 'Lovely Smile' and 'The Cliff', and 'Raining' respectively.

Six prints, all submitted by Kuching, were Highly Commended. The authors were Chia Bok Gee, K.L. Pang (2), Chiang Weng Yew, and Au Yang Nang Gun (2).

In the School section, the Gold Medal was won by Peter Wong for his picture entitled "Look What They Can Do".

Two Silver Medals were won respectively by Law Jen Sze and Au Yang Nang Yip. The latter also won a Bronze Medal.

Highly commended were Au Yang Nang Kam (2), Au Yang Nang Yip and Peter Wong.

It is learned that these pictures will be exhibited in Kuching at an Exhibition to be held in the first week of December.



# First Pan Borneo Photographic Exhibition



*Gold Medal*

"GLISTENING TEETH"  
Au Yang Nang Gun, (Kuching).



*Au Yang Nang Gun, who was recently elected an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, is seen receiving the Gold Medal for his Prize-winning print, from the Governor.*





*Gold Medal*

"LOOK! WHAT CAN THEY DO?"

Peter Wong, (Kuching)

**SCHOOL SECTION**



*Peter Wong is seen receiving the Gold Medal for his Prize-winning print from the Governor.*



*Special Medal*

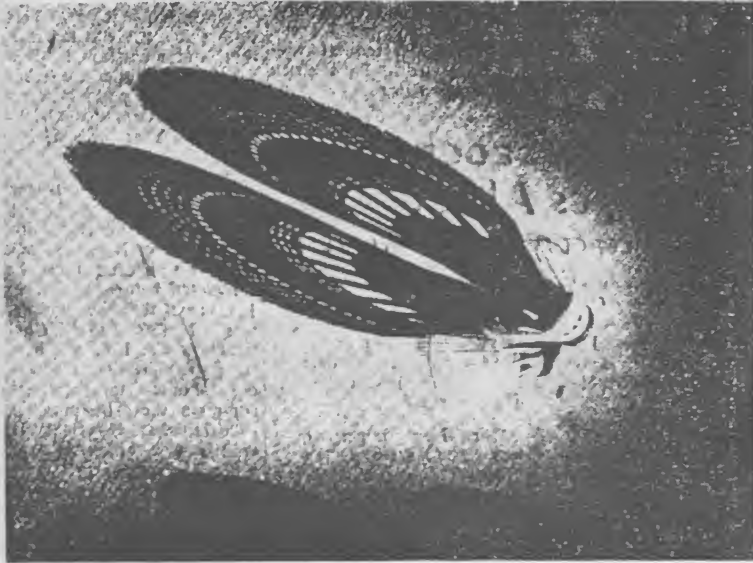
"CONTEMPLATION"  
Lee Seng Wah, (Kuching)



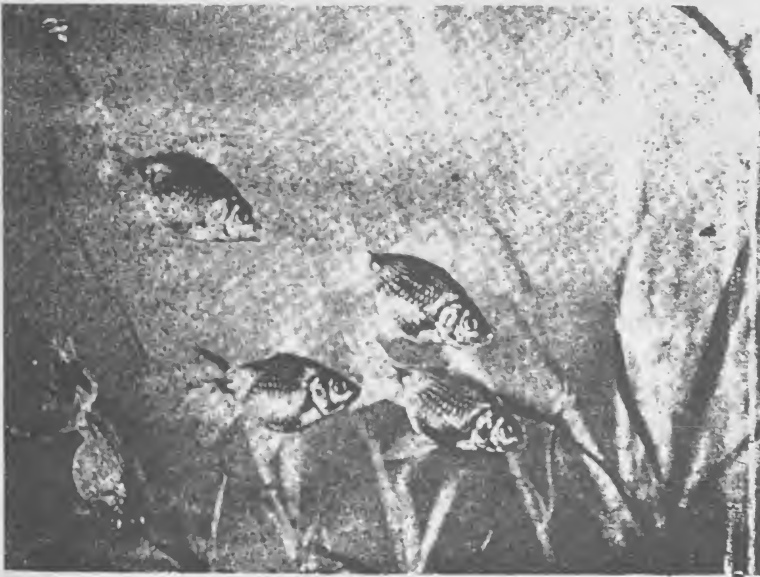
*Silver Medal*

"LOOK AT MY FACE"  
K.L. Pang, (Kuching)

## Photographic Exhibition Governor To Open Show



*'Shadow Show' by Kan Hing-Fook, another photograph which will be on display at the exhibition which will be open tomorrow.*



*"Water Parade" is the title of this photograph by Cheung Yu-Chiu, which will be included in the exhibits tomorrow.*

The Joint Pictorial Photographic Exhibition sponsored by the Sarawak Photographic Society will be formally opened tomorrow at the premises of the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce,

Main Bazaar.

The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, who is Patron of the Society, will declare the Exhibition open at 2 o'clock.

A total of 160 prints, representing the works of

four famous photographers will be on display. These works are jointly contributed by Messrs. Cheung Yu Chin, Kang Hing-Fook, Ho Fan and Dr. K.H. Wu.

These prints are also being exhibited in various cities and towns throughout the world, and they have come here from Singapore after which they will be sent to Sibü where a similar exhibition will be held. When they have had their run in Sibü the prints will be sent either to Europe or to the United States.

The Resident, Mr. D.C. White, will declare the Exhibition open at Sibü on Friday, February 7, at the premises of the Foochow Association.

Mr. K.F. Wong, President of the Sarawak Photographic Society said yesterday that the gate admission for the exhibition, both in Kuching and Sibü will be a minimum charge of 20 cents per person. Larger donations will be welcomed, for the proceeds from this will be shared among charitable institutions.

An illustrated catalogue will also be on sale at the price of \$1 per copy.

In Kuching, one third of the proceeds will be donated to the Anti Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak; an other third to the Salvation Army, and the remaining third for the expenses incurred in connection with the Exhibition. In Sibü the proceeds will be similarly distributed between the Sibü Benevolent Society; the Orphanage; and a third towards deferring expenses incurred in connection with the exhibition.



## Governor Open First British Borneo Territories Photographic Exhibition

SHUTTERBUGS in Kuching and hundreds of people here were 'feted' with probably one of the most spectacular photographic displays ever held in the country when the First British Borneo Territories Photographic Exhibition opens on Saturday, December 20, at the premises of the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

The exhibition, organised by the Sarawak Photographic Society, was declared open by the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, at 2.30 p.m.

The Governor, who is also the patron of the Society, will on the same day present gold, silver and bronze medals and honour certificates to winners of the First Pan Borneo Photographic Competition held in October this year.

Some of the recipients are in the 'open section'. Au Yang Nang Gun will receive the Patron's Gold Medal for the print "Glistening Teeth". In the 'school section' the Patron's Gold Medal will go to Peter Wong for his picture "Look! What can they do?"

The President's Special Medal goes to Lee Seng



*The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, speaking at the opening of the Photographic Exhibition.*

Hua. He is the author of the print — showing an old wrinkled man with clasped hands in deep "Contemplation".

These prints can be seen at the forthcoming display. In all there will be over 120 pictures by some of the brightest shutterbugs in the three British Borneo territories.

### SPECIAL CATALOGUE

A special catalogue has been printed in Singapore and will be on sale during the two-day exhibition.

In a foreword to the handsome booklet showing the winning prints the President of the Sarawak Photographic Society, Mr. K.F.

Wong said: "It is only recently that there is development in the art of photography in Sarawak. A few years ago the first photographic society was formed in Sandakan, North Borneo. In 1956 Sarawak has its own photographic society. In the past two years because of the encouragement of various societies and organisations the number of fans of photography has greatly increased. Photographic exhibitions had been held in Borneo and Sarawak and many pictures of very high artistic standard were exhibited.

"To elevate the standard of photography the Sarawak Photographic Society is now sponsoring a photographic exhibition of the three territories. With the participation

of the sister photographic societies in Sandakan and Sibuan and artists from other territories we have a rich collection of pictures of high artistic standard in the present exhibition. This gives us great encouragement."

Mr. Wong added that he had no doubt about the outcome of the forthcoming exhibition and he was grateful to those who contribute to make the forthcoming display a success.

## **BRIAN BRAKE'S WORK**

Mr. Wong also disclosed during an interview that in addition to the combined exhibition of the three territories the world famous photographer Brian Brake of Magnum and eleven top Singapore 'lense wizards' of the Singapore Arts Society will also send in prints.

On Brian Brake (a personal friend) Mr. Wong said that reservation for the 56 copies of Mr. Brake's pictures for display in Kuching was made as far back as 1956. The delay in having these prints in Kuching was due to tremendous demands for Brake's pictures throughout the world.

Mr. Wong said that after the exhibition in Kuching Brake's pictures would be sent to Brunei where the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company is arranging for a display there.

Brian Brake is a New Zealander educated in Christchurch. He had always wanted to be a photographer. On leaving school he worked in Spencer Digby's portrait studio in Wellington, where he spent five years learning the techniques of photography and

lighting. This, he maintains, was an invaluable training for his latter work. He exchanged still photography for the cinema in joining the National Film Unit in 1949. His final film for the Unit was "Snows of Aorangi", which won him awards in many countries.

In 1954 he left New Zealand for England, and turning again to still photography — this time with a miniature camera — he was invited by Cartier-Bresson to join the Magnum-Paris group.

Brian Brake is a constant globe-trotter finding picture stories for magazine publications. His work has been published in many leading magazines of Europe and America.



# Wong Describes Exhibition As Incentive



*Mr. K.F. Wong, President of the Sarawak Photography Society.*



*Sir Anthony, accompanied by Mr. Lo Suan Hian and Mr. K.F. Wong, President of the Sarawak Photography Society, is seen looking over the exhibits.*

"The exhibition of the works of four distinguished artists (photographers) will leave the people of Sarawak a lasting memory and being the first of its kind in which the exhibits are all from another country, will undoubtedly help to promote the skill and raise the standard of photography in Sarawak."

This was said by Mr. K.F. Wong, President of the Sarawak Photographic Society at the opening of the photographic exhibition last Saturday.

The exhibition featured the works of four distinguished artists of Hong Kong.

Mr. Wong said he was quite sure that the high yet proper commendation of the works of these four great photographers would be appreciated by all.

"Today we have gathered here to witness and admire these first class works which are great not only in quantity but in quality as well," he stressed. Mr. Wong also elucidated the purpose of the Sarawak Photographic Society which, he said, aimed to promote the standard and to foster interest in general photography in the country.

He concluded by thanking the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, who is also Patron of the Society, for having kindly consented to perform the opening.



# Photographic Exhibition



*His Excellency admired the photographs on exhibit.*



*The President K.F. Wong, with committee members and members of the Sarawak Photographic Society during the exhibition.*



The Exhibition includes prints which were accepted for the first Pan British Borneo Photographic competition held in Kuching in October in both the Open and School sections, as well as photographs by Mr. Brian Brake, a member of the Magnum Group and members of the Art Society of Singapore.









